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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Reconciliation Summit' Reportedly To Meet 'Soon'

JN0902162493 Amman AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 9 Feb 93 p 1

[Unattributed "exclusive" report: "An Arab Reconciliation Summit Soon"]

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources are unanimous that Egyptian efforts to effect Arab reconciliation have reached an advanced stage. Meanwhile, Palestinian sources expect an Arab summit in Cairo shortly to be attended by all sides.

Despite the fact that the declared Syrian position is opposed to the summit for reasons connected with the Gulf war, Egyptian sources note that Damascus' views are liable to change at any time and to approve such a summit.

In fact, one can at least affirm that Cairo has recently been the capital of secret Arab diplomacy to realize reconciliation. The first fruit of Cairo's activities are the visit to Saudi Arabia by PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas—Abu-Mazin—and the halting of media campaigns among several Arab sides, including Baghdad itself.

Palestinian sources close to the leadership said that President Yasir 'Arafat informed the Fatah Revolutionary Council during a recent meeting in Tunis that Abu-Mazin's visit to Saudi Arabia was coordinated with Baghdad itself, something which defused much of the opposition within the council to the so-called Palestinian apology. The sources noted that 'Arafat's visit to Baghdad was within this framework and expected that the Arab summit in Cairo was approved in principle during the visit.

It may be said that the summit, which Saddam Husayn will not attend in any case, will be held under the pretext of the Palestinian deportees, but it will be understood that it will be a summit of reconciliation. Differences will be overcome without the need to apportion blame for the previous stage.

Apparently, the coming summit will be held as part of great developments in the region aimed at alleviating the blockade on Iraq and returning to the peace process with clear U.S. support.

Meanwhile, European press reports say that Amman is playing host to dozens of U.S. businessmen in a move that was explained as paving the way for signing contracts with the Iraqi Government. These reports further say that representatives of the Iraqi Government and these companies are also in Amman. The reports further say that representatives of the U.S. Fifth Trust Oil Company [name as published], one of the biggest in the world, are there for the same reason.

In another development, Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan's surprise visit to Algiers yesterday [as published] can be understood within the same context, paving the necessary ground and coordinating stands during the expected summit.

It has been observed that media campaigns have actually stopped between Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states on the one hand and Iraq on the other. Moreover, Saudi papers in London, such as AL-HAYAH, transcended the halt in media campaigns to actually support the gradual lifting of sanctions imposed on Iraq if it continues to implement UN Security Council resolutions. These papers began talking about the international community's double-standard approach to Arab causes.

However, sources affirm that Kuwait's position is different from that of the other Gulf states, that it opposes any reconciliation with Baghdad and the other Arab capitals that stood by it during the crisis, and that if it is forced to attend, it will only be at a very low level, an issue which the various capitals did not bother to discuss for long.

In any case, various sources agree that the summit will be held, given the current developments on the ground, and that an official announcement will be made before the end of this month.

Rabat, Amman See Intense Diplomatic Activity

PM0902140193 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 5 Feb 93 p 1

[Basim Sakjaha and Mahmud Ma'ruf report: "Riyadh Pledges To Stop Its Support for Iraqi Opposition; 'Arafat Conveys Reconciliation Formula to Cairo; Algerian Mediation Between Iraq and Saudi Arabia"]

[Excerpts] Amman, Rabat, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—The Jordanian capital, Amman, witnessed extensive diplomatic activities yesterday. King Husayn received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who had arrived in the Jordanian capital from Baghdad. Well-informed sources have told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that the two leaders' talks focused on developments in the deportees issue and clearing the Arab atmosphere. The Jordanian monarch also received Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, who arrived in Amman from Algeria in the morning.

While Palestinian moves focused on improving the Arab atmosphere with Baghdad, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned that Jordan focused on similar moves in Damascus.

And while Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Baghdad achieved an important success, according to sources which accompanied him there, the results of former Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i's visit to Damascus and his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad are still unknown.

AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has also learned that an important Jordanian parliamentary figure will visit Damascus tomorrow, Saturday, and hold a meeting with President al-Asad which will deal with the question of holding an Arab summit. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources in the Jordanian capital said that President Yasir 'Arafat, who returned to Amman from Baghdad yesterday, is carrying an important message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak which he is expected to deliver to him during a short stopover in Cairo in the next two days.

The sources said that the message concerns opening a new Arab page on the grounds that Baghdad has closed the Kuwait file completely.

In Rabat, Arab diplomatic sources have revealed the existence of Arab mediations between Iraq and Arab states which took part in the coalition during the Gulf crisis. The sources told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that these mediations are being conducted in response to these states' desire to ease the severity of the tension with Iraq and to restore a form of contacts between them in view of the changes in the international atmosphere with regard to dealing with Iraq and the voices being raised in several European states calling for the embargo imposed on Iraq to be reconsidered.

The sources, which asked to remain anonymous, said that Saudi officials officially asked Algeria during the visit to Riyadh last month by Khaled Nezzar, member of the Algerian Higher State Council and defense minister, to play a role in improving the Iraqi-Saudi atmosphere. The sources attributed the Saudi request to the growing Iranian influence in the Gulf region and the imbalance the region has been experiencing since the destruction of the Iraqi military capability. But officials in Riyadh set a condition for this, namely Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's independence and sovereignty, noninterference in internal affairs, and suspension of media campaigns. And Riyadh pledged to stop its support for the Iraqi opposition and to suspend its media campaigns. The sources said that Riyadh expressed to Khaled Nezzar its concern over Iranian moves in the Gulf region and north Africa.

The sources added that Algeria, which is suffering from Tehran's support for Algerian fundamentalists and whose relations with Tehran are strained as a result of this, made contact with Baghdad immediately after the Algerian official's return to his country. These contacts resulted in the visit which Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan paid to Algeria. One of the main topics discussed during his talks with Algerian officials was relations with Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

The sources revealed that other Arab parties have been asked to play a role in improving Egyptian-Iraqi relations. They said that the Iranian words of love toward Iraq which emerged in Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's statements prompted a number of Arab capitals whose relations with Tehran are strained to prevent Iran from exploiting the embargo imposed on Iraq to form an Iraqi-Iranian economic bloc which would pose a real threat to a number of states in the region. And that these capitals found that opening the lines with Baghdad is an opportunity to encircle [tatwiq] any Iranian-Iraqi rapprochement, which, so they believe, would be at the expense of the region's stability. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Minister Leaves After Arab League Meeting

NC0902191793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1734 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Iraqi Justice Minister Shabib Lazim al-Maliki left Cairo tonight following a two-day visit to Egypt during which he participated in the meetings of the Executive Bureau of the Arab justice ministers, which was held yesterday at Arab League headquarters in Cairo.

In a departure statement, the Iraqi minister described the meeting as fruitful and positive and as having achieved good results. The bureau, he pointed out, drafted important resolutions that will be discussed at the coming meeting of the the Arab Justice Ministers' Council and prepared memoranda on administrative laws, juveniles, real estate registration, and Arab financial transactions. A committee has been formed to prepare studies on human rights. The bureau's session was in preparation for the meeting of the Arab Justice Ministers' Council, scheduled for April, the Iraqi minister said, noting that Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia, Bahrain, and Yemen participated in the meeting.

Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League, accompanied the Iraqi minister to the airport.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi Says No Talks Until Deportees Return

JN0902160493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has said the U.S. Administration has been informed that the Palestinian side will not attend the next round of talks unless all the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad deportees are returned.

Our correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi reports that Dr. 'Ashrawi has met with the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern Affairs and with U.S. State Department and National Security Council officials.

Dr. 'Ashrawi added that the U.S. Administration has rejected a PLO request to resume the dialogue between the U.S. Administration and the PLO.

'Ashrawi on Washington Talks, U.S. Contacts

JN0902171793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, good evening.

['Ashrawi] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan, you have met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian and officials from the National Security Council, what did you discuss during your meeting?

['Ashrawi] There were many topics on the agenda, including the deportee issue and the U.S.-Israeli deal, the issue of human rights in the occupied territories, U.S.-Palestinian ties and the resumption of dialogue with the PLO, as well as issues related to the causes for the flaws and faults in the peace negotiations and the reasons for not achieving any progress throughout the long, previous phase. However, discussion in this first session centered mainly on the deportation issue, which took up the entire meeting.

[Mu'addi] Have you officially informed Mr. Djerejian that the Palestinians will not attend the next round of peace talks unless all the deportees are returned?

['Ashrawi] Yes. We have informed the State Department and the U.S. National Security Council that the Palestinian position remains unchanged and insists on the need to implement Resolution 799, and not in finding means to employ tricks or give legitimacy to the deportations. We demanded a return to the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution ensuring the implementation of Resolution 799.

[Mu'addi] Following your contacts with U.S. Administration officials, what are your intentions now regarding the multilateral and bilateral talks?

['Ashrawi] We believe the bilateral and multilateral talks are part of a single, comprehensive process. Therefore, what applies to one applies to the other. We also believe that the defects associated with that process throughout the negotiations have to be adjusted. In my opinion, these meetings may help locate the faults and weaknesses and overcome them, so that if we reach a point from which the talks can be resumed—after Resolution 799 is applied—we can resume them on more a positive and constructive basis.

[Mu'addi] What was the reaction of U.S. officials to the question of resuming contacts between the U.S. Administration and the PLO?

['Ashrawi] We have not yet reached that item on the agenda. But, there were some initial negative reactions which they have announced to the media. We will discuss this question in our next session.

[Mu'addi] Are there plans to meet with Secretary of State Warren Christopher during this visit?

['Ashrawi] We will see. We decided to leave this for now, unless events warrant otherwise, and unless there is a need for a preliminary, unofficial meeting to pave the way for his meeting with us in Jerusalem when he comes to the region. But, as you know, he will come to Jerusalem in the very near future and we will meet with him there. If the need to prepare for that meeting arises, we will meet with him.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, thank you.

['Ashrawi] You are welcome, Sa'id.

'Arafat, Belgian Minister Discuss Deportations

LD0902200693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestinian and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee yesterday received in Tunis Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes and his accompanying delegation.

During their meeting they touched upon the situation in the occupied territories resulting from the Israeli authorities' continuation of the iron-fist policy and disregard for international conventions, especially their refusal to implement Security Council Resolution 799 on the return of the deportees.

The brother Chairman Abu-'Ammar stressed the position of the PLO on this issue, and pointed out that the Rabin government is responsible for aborting the peace process through its refusal to find an immediate solution to this problem by enabling the return of the deportees and making a full commitment to Security Council Resolution 799.

For his part, the Belgian minister affirmed the concern of Belgium and the EEC over the deportations, and recalled that Belgium had voted for Resolution 799 at the Security Council. He said that the EEC realizes the danger of the deportation operation, and has taken stances and measures liable to help resolve this problem in accordance with the rules of international legitimacy and international law.

The minister stressed his country's position concerning the importance of realizing a just and lasting peace in the region, and on offering forms of support that serve the development process, the settlement of economic and social problems, and the political process.

Abu-Sharif: 'Personal' View on Resuming Talks

PM1002095793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Feb 93 p3

['Ali Salih report: "Abu-Sharif: I Was Expressing My Personal Opinion"]

[Text] London—Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has confirmed the statement attributed to him by the Swiss radio the night before last, to the effect that the peace negotiations could be resumed next month even if the Palestinian deportees issue was not resolved.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO's Information Department, had denied Abu-Sharif's statement saying that "Abu-Sharif has no right to speak on behalf of the PLO and his statements do not at all represent the Palestinian position nor the policy of the PLO and its leadership."

'Abd-Rabbuh added that "these statements cause confusion in the media. The PLO leadership will take the necessary practical measures to prevent any such violations in the future." 'Abd-Rabbuh reaffirmed the PLO's position which, he said, is based on its leadership's decision that all the deportees should be repatriated immediately, that UN Security Council Resolution 799 should be completely implemented, and that the Security Council should be asked to convene to take firm measures to ensure the implementation of the resolution because participation in the bilateral and multilateral peace negotiations is linked to the implementation of the resolution, the return of all the deportees, abolition of the deportation policy, and adherence to international charters and laws.

Abu-Sharif, however, does not see anything in his statements to warrant this uproar because he was expressing his personal views. In a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from Algiers, he said "what I stated was clear. I emphasize that I was expressing my own personal position which is that I personally believe that the negotiations will be resumed even if the deportees crisis is not totally resolved. Furthermore, I am optimistic that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East later this month will solve the deportees problem. The U.S.-Israeli agreement was a positive step in that direction."

'Sharp Disagreement' Seen in Hamas on PLO Ties

TA0902184893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Reports from Beirut indicate that sharp disagreement has broken out within Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] over the benefit of its leaders' recent meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The reports add that those opposed to this meeting said that 'Arafat does not keep his promises. They gave as an example of this 'Arafat's violation of the agreement concluded between Hamas and Fatah last month in Khartoum.

Hamas Assailed Over Deportees, Peace Talks

JN0802211393 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1834 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Station commentary: "Calmly and Without Prattle or Zeal, Hamas"]

[Text] It is not permissible for anybody to tamper with the higher interests of the Palestinian people. Likewise, no faction, body, or party has the right to act against the wishes of the Palestinian community to make gains or win useless numerical support. Therefore, clarity with regard to basic issues is important, necessary, and inescapable, particularly since we are confronting issues that concern the Palestinian people, affect their destiny, and pose threats to their security. The foremost issue is that of the uprooted individuals, which came to be known as the deportees issue, which Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is endeavoring to turn into a personal issue, and which Hamas is using to make factional gains regardless of the overriding national concerns and the higher interests of our Palestinian people. We could be turning over a new leaf which some might think should be left alone at this point in time. However, we believe that addressing issues will help dispel ambiguity and open a large window for the Palestinian people from which they can see facts and examine realities, a window which can be used to examine the state of affairs that could influence their interests and national issues which concern them. Therefore, it is necessary to recall the famous Palestinian decision endorsed by the Palestine National Council [PNC] to make efforts to resolve the Palestinian issue peacefully on the basis of international legitimacy, the peace initiative launched by the PNC, as well as the peace negotiations accepted and endorsed by it. All of these are commitments which nobody has the right to annul or dispose of independently, even though people or parties do have the right to voice their opposition to them without a clash with the overwhelming majority that endorsed them.

It follows that Hamas does not have the right to deal with the issue of the Palestinian deportees as if they were its own property. The deportees are Palestinians regardless of their affiliation. Moreover, this issue is part and parcel of the overall issue. By the same token, the security of the deportees is an indivisible part of overall Palestinian security. Any endeavor to depart from this framework will hurt them and undermine the higher interests of our people. The uprooted individuals, the deportees, are citizens of the Palestinians' body corporate, the PLO. They are nationals of this body corporate and are to be cared for by it. They will remain in focus while the PLO continues to make extensive political and diplomatic moves to ensure their repatriation. Consequently, the exploitation of their grave ordeal in order to promote selfish factional interests at the expense of higher interests gets one embroiled in taboos. We do not know why these political acrobatics are being displayed. We do not believe that they could conceal facts or the actual state of affairs. The statements made by Hamas to the effect that

the Palestinian people are unanimous in their rejection of the peace negotiations, as Hamas claims, are untrue. The Palestinian people are unanimous on the need to completely remove the obstacles standing in the way of the negotiations, foremost of which is the deportees issue. Similarly, the Palestinian people are unanimous that these negotiations must result in the termination of the occupation. They are also unanimous that no faction whatsoever has the right to impose views on them which do not serve their national interests.

Consequently, the language of warning being used by Hamas, as well as the accusations it has been deceptively leveling at PLO figures to undermine the PLO as an institution and a national identity, is purple prose deemed unacceptable and condemnable. Its exploitation of the deportees issue will do it no good. After all, the deportees belong to the PLO. They do not belong to any faction which is willing to harm the Palestinian people's security just to settle scores. This is a march staged by the entire people, a march in which intellectual terrorism is deemed useless. We do not want to go any further by starting to read the latest statement issued by Hamas. This counted on other parties, whom Hamas knows to be unreliable, because the ideas and views of these parties are not in harmony with those cherished by Hamas. Indeed, the ideas and views of these parties could converge with those of Hamas only in a narrow passageway which might prove to be uncomfortable for all of them. Furthermore, we do not want to tackle Hamas' wager on parties which are alien to the Palestinian homeland, and even to the Arab homeland.

This is the beginning in the talk about Hamas. A clearer handling of the Hamas tactics could follow if the current state of affairs is maintained. Of course, our people will always be the arbiter.

'Arafat Talks Cover Peace Process, Other Issues

PM0902150193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Feb 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat Briefs Mubarak on Results of His Tour; Hamas Suspends Dialogue with PLO"]

[Excerpts] London, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak yesterday received PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and reviewed with him developments in the deportees issue.

Arab sources in Cairo have said that Washington has over the past two days made a series of diplomatic contacts to postpone referring the deportees issue to the Security Council pending the conclusion of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region's states.

The Arab sources in question told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the U.S. Administration told the capitals concerned with the deportees crisis that the U.S. secretary of state will seek during his foreign tour of the Middle East to raise new ideas to resolve the deportees crisis and urge the Israeli Government to implement Security Council Resolution 799, especially since the United States supported this resolution.

The sources pointed out that the U.S. Administration's decision to agree with Russia to postpone the upcoming round of bilateral and multilateral negotiations came in response to an Egyptian proposal in order to avoid the Arab delegations' pullout from this round, as such a pullout would lead to freezing the peace process. [passage omitted]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Egyptian-Palestinian summit talks dealt with the possibility of obtaining special guarantees and assurances regarding progress in the peace process, like, for example, that the new U.S. Administration should begin to implement the assurances announced during President Bush's term, which stipulate Israel's withdrawal from all the Palestinian territories which it has occupied since 1967, abolition of all annexation measures, removal of the settlements it has built on Arab Palestinian territories, and seeking to place the occupied Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem, under UN supervision for a limited period in order to protect the Palestinian people and provide favorable conditions to make the proceedings of the international conference a success and achieve a comprehensive political settlement.

The Palestinian sources said that in the event of U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's acceptance and understanding of the modest Palestinian demands, nothing will prevent the resumption of the peace process, especially if the Clinton administration closes the deportations file and returns [as published] the Marj al-Zuhur deportees.

For his part, Palestine National Council [PNC] Secretary Muhammad Subayh has revealed an Egyptian-Palestinian-Tunisian move on various axes to close the file of Arab disagreements and clear the atmosphere of relations.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Subayh pointed to Palestinian efforts being made by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to bring views closer between Iraq and Egypt in the framework of extensive efforts to revive Arab solidarity. The Palestinian official said that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat agreed on the need to transcend the phase of Arab disagreements.

At another level, Subayh confirmed President 'Arafat's intervention with Iraq to solve the problem concerning Kuwaiti prisoners and missing Kuwaitis. He ruled out the existence of political aims behind the Palestinian efforts concerning Kuwaiti prisoners and missing Kuwaitis, pointing to the humanitarian aspect of the Palestinian move.

The PNC secretary pointed out that Kuwaiti nongovernment popular delegations met with 'Arafat in Tunis recently to seek his help in searching for missing

Kuwaitis in Iraq. He emphasized that solving this problem would reflect positively on Arab-Arab relations. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has decided to suspend the dialogue with the PLO until the return of all the deportees belonging to it and until Israel's implementation of Security Council Resolution 799. The movement also refused to change its position regarding nonparticipation in the bilateral negotiations. [passage omitted]

At another level, Subhi Abu-Karash, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Riyadh, addressed a message to U.S. President Clinton, calling on him to put an end to Israel's defiance of the resolutions of international legitimacy and not to use the veto right to prevent the Security Council from imposing sanctions on Israel.

Christopher Tour Hinges on Solving Deportee Issue

TA0902164893 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 9 Feb 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The U.S. Administration—Facing A Difficult Test"]

[Text] The issue of the stalled Middle East peace talks and the problem of the Palestinian deportees have top priority in the contacts underway between the Palestinian, Egyptian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian leaderships. The Arab parties will try to persuade U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to have the United States convince Israel, by diplomatic means, to return the 396 deportees to their homes so that the way to the resumption of the peace talks in Washington will be reopened. Restoring the talks to their track and creating a suitable climate for advancing the peace process are as much in the interest of Israel as in the interest of the Arabs and the peace conference's sponsor, the United States.

Undoubtedly, Warren Christopher's mission will be extremely difficult. If he has failed to persuade Israel to return the deportees and implement Security Council Resolution 799, how will he be able to convince Israel to implement Resolutions 242 and 338? Each party is skeptical of the other's intentions. The biggest proof of this is yesterday's statement by Rabin "that the Arabs' insistence on suspending the talks until the deportees are returned means that they are not serious in making progress in the peace process." Rabin believes that the deportee issue should be separated from the peace process and negotiations.

The Arabs feel that by appeasing the Jewish state, America has prevented the Security Council from adopting resolutions on the imposition of sanctions against Israel. Thus, the remaining U.S. credibility has become shaky, especially after America, through Warren Christopher, supported the division of the deportees' return. When he agreed on the Israeli deal, Christopher may have felt that he had succeeded in extracting a concession from Israel, but the Palestinians reject this deal for a simple reason. They are not sure that Israel will commit itself to repatriating all the deportees.

For Christopher to achieve any success in his first trip to the region, he should adopt a more evenhanded position, and if he intends to exert pressure on the parties, this pressure should be compatible with international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions.

If the purpose of Christopher's tour is to create new facts that facilitate the resumption of the peace process, his mission will meet with failure if he adheres to his statement that he wants to close the deportee issue and that this issue will not be on the agenda of his talks with the region's leaders. It will be difficult, if not impossible, to close the deportee issue before reaching a convincing solution to this issue, which is upsetting all the region's peoples, especially the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. Christopher should acknowledge that Israel has created a crisis that must be resolved.

If the aim of Christopher's visit is to explore the views of the parties and exert pressure on the Arabs and the Palestinians to resume the talks, his trip will not succeed. The U.S. Administration has announced more than once that it will neither intervene nor pressure Israel. In fact, it is betting on pressuring the Arabs because it believes that they are the weaker party. Whatever the case, Christopher will not only encounter but will collide with the rejection of all the parties if he fails to take the initiative and adopt a firm position that does not seek to satisfy one party at the expense of the others. Recent intensive inter-Arab and Palestinian contacts were the result of popular pressure that rejects the continued use of a double standard by the United States toward the region's problems.

The U.S. Administration, led by Clinton and his secretary of state, Christopher, is facing a difficult test. All the parties wish to know how firm this administration is in its positions and how capable it is in activating the political struggle to realize achievements and progress on various levels.

Rabin Government Playing 'Installment Game'

TA0802184193 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 6 Feb 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The 'Installment' Game"]

[Text] The Israeli Government keeps pursuing an installment position on the deportee issue, without paying heed to Security Council Resolution 799 which calls for the immediate repatriation of all the deportees. A few days ago, this government announced "a deal" between it and the U.S. Administration that included the repatriation of only 25 percent of the deportees, while reducing the deportation period of the others by half! The Israeli Ministry of Defense yesterday issued a list of 101 names of deportees selected to represent the percentage ratio

according to the U.S.-Israeli deal. The ministry will return those deportees to their pre-deportation status.

In this way, "the installment game" will be completed in the Israeli court alone. Clearly, the Israeli Government knew beforehand that the Palestinian side would reject this dangerous deal and instead focus on the international legitimacy required by Resolution 799. Because of this, observers believe that Yitzhaq Rabin's government is trying to co-opt international condemnation through this U.S.-brokered deal. In addition it hopes to fragment the Palestinian position by making it waver between rejection and acceptance. Simultaneously the Rabin government obstructs the peace process in the region by trying to totally subjugate the negotiations to its own terms and interpretations of UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338.

This Israeli diplomacy, however, is so naive as to be an object of ridicule. The deal reached is merely a reaffirmation of the agreement between Israel and the United States against international legitimacy. The ensuing damage to this legitimacy will be a U.S.-Israeli responsibility. As for the Palestinian position, it is totally cohesive and clear in its decisiveness: Resolution 799 must be fully and comprehensively implemented regarding all the deportees. The oath taken by the deportees yesterday before newsmen affirms that "the installment game" will not succeed. No deportee among the 101 deportees accepts return without the others.

The road now remains necessarily clear for the Security Council to determine its stance in rejecting this game and protecting international legitimacy from collapse.

'Abd-Rabbuh Wing of DFLP Forms Party

PM0902155593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Feb 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "'Abd-Rabbuh Settles Dispute With Hawatimah Over Name, Forms Political Party in Preparation for Stage Ahead"]

[Excerpts] London, Arab Studies Center—An important political step has been achieved inside the occupied territories, namely the announcement by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] wing belonging to PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh that it has dissolved itself and replaced its organization with another organization called the "Palestinian Democratic Union" [al-ittihad al-dimuqrati al-filastini] (FIDA).

A statement issued in this connection said that this organization seeks together with all the national forces to develop the national and mass struggle role in order to end the occupation and achieve independence and repatriation. And that it considers the negotiations an arena of the struggle complementing the other struggle arenas, but not an alternative to them, and that they complement the popular intifadah.

The importance of this development is that it comes as a step toward putting an end to the bitter conflict between the two wings of the DFLP: the wing led by Nayif Hawatimah and the wing led by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. But it is noted in this connection that the statement announcing the Palestinian Democratic Union (FIDA) stressed that the DFLP Front outside, that is outside the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, will remain the "DFLP." [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh sought and is still seeking to share the DFLP's money, which some people estimate at about $50 million, with Nayif Hawatimah before splitting up. But the latter completely rejects the sharing principle.

It is worth noting that this question and the question of who should occupy the DFLP's seat on the Executive Committee were raised vehemently at the last Palestine National Council meeting and in Algiers at the end of 1991. Although the representation problem was resolved by allocating a seat for each wing in the PLO leadership, the money problem is still outstanding. [passage omitted]

It seems that 'Abd-Rabbuh, who is considered the real leader of the new party and who belongs to the dovish tendency in the PLO leadership, has reached the conviction that the armed factions "fashion" is no longer suitable and that there is a need to hasten to form a political party that adheres to peaceful means inside the occupied territories.

Nayif Hawatimah's wing has hastened to accuse Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and his group of abandoning the armed struggle and of submitting to the "Israeli and U.S. desire" to pull the PLO's teeth and turn it into just an informational and political organization. [passage omitted]

In the same context the DFLP-'Abd-Rabbuh wing has dissolved its organization in Jordan after the move to separate from Nayif Hawatimah, turning it into a Jordanian party which has nothing to do with the PLO and its factions organizationally. This party has obtained a license from the Interior Ministry to operate publicly.

The statement announcing the establishment of the Palestinian Democratic Union party (FIDA) contained a paragraph which says: The DFLP in the occupied territories is the quarter which hastened to establish this party through contacts with a large number of national figures and groups.

The statement in question listed 11 points which it said represent this party's main aims. They include supporting and participating in the political negotiations.

PNSF Leader Views Talks, Hamas, Deportees

NC0702103093 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 31 Jan 93 p 12

["Exclusive" interview with Palestinian National Salvation Front leader Khalid al-Fahum by an unidentified correspondent in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [ETTELA'AT] What has the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] achieved so far? If it has failed to achieve anything, what are the reasons?

[Al-Fahum] First, the PNSF is seeking to attain its higher objectives, but there are certain trends which are at odds with it. Most of the Arab and all the Western powers are against it. The reason for this is opposition is that the PNSF is seeking a just peace for the land of Palestine. The leaders of this front reject the stances of Yasir 'Arafat regarding the acceptance of Resolution 242 based on halting the armed struggle against Israel. Therefore, the front rejects every conference which convenes on the basis of Resolution 148 because it believes in continuing the struggle through armed conflict.

Therefore, the leaders of this front also oppose the Palestinian participation in the peace conference. The PNSF has had many gains and has strengthened its position in the occupied areas and Lebanon. This front also has close ties with all national and Islamic forces, such as Hizballah and Islamic Jihad.

The PNSF currently is active in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the occupied areas. Despite its dazzling success, however, the Arab governments have risen against it. European governments also have embarked on extensive opposition to this front, as their objective is to support Israel. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] Have the PNSF's relations with Syria had any effect on the strategy or objectives of the PNSF? In view of the fact that 'Arafat's relations with Syria have improved, how will this affect relations between the PNSF and Syria?

[Al-Fahum] The relations between Palestine and Syria are historical, geographical, and political. The separation of Palestine from Syria took place on the basis of the Paris conference and the Sykes-Picot Treaty. [passage omitted]

The Palestinians and Syrians have much in common and these long-standing relations continue to keep us close together. In my opinion, the more the PLO tries to distance itself from Syria, the weaker it will become; the closer it gets to Syria, the stronger it will become.

Regarding 'Arafat's relations with Syrian officials, I do not think they have very cordial relations. Regarding the PNSF's relations with Syria, it has close and strategic relations with the Syrian echelons. We are confident that the Syrians will defend our national rights and will never ignore them.

[ETTELA'AT] What is the nature of the relations between the groups and the founding organizations of the PNSF?

[Al-Fahum] Having differences are quite natural in every organization. But these differences are minor, not deep-rooted or fundamental. Therefore, we all are pitched against a joint enemy alongside our friends in Lebanon and Iran.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you assess the Arab-Israeli talks and what is your stance in this regard?

[Al-Fahum] Right from the start we have stressed the fact that Resolution 242 considers the Palestinian issue a humanitarian issue, not a political one. Therefore, every agreement that takes place on the basis of Resolution 242 is tantamount to negating the rights of the Palestinian nation on the one hand and neutralizing the Palestinians' struggle on the other.

[ETTELA'AT] What will happen with the Palestine issue in the future? Will it conclude with Palestine gaining independence or autonomy? What is your view?

[Al-Fahum] First, in the so-called peace conference, Israel is seeking to bestow autonomy on the Palestinians. In other words, Israel plans to delegate municipal powers to the Palestinians. Affairs pertaining to land, water, defense, and foreign policy, however, will remain under Israel's control. This merely means the bestowing of some managerial functions on the Palestinians, not autonomy. In such circumstances, the government will control all the affairs of the people and the Palestinians will remain a national minority in Israel. This is exactly what is being discussed in the peace conference.

Unfortunately the United States, in its capacity as the most important supervisor to these talks (its role is greater than that of Russia) is on the side of Israel. Therefore, the United States also interprets autonomy as the delegation of municipal functions. This is utterly fallacious and unacceptable. It is for this reason that the PNSF is opposed to this plan and will be victorious in its efforts. We want an independent government established in parts of the land of Palestine within the framework of a "tactical" [preceding word in English] short-term policy. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] Do the Palestinian groups carry out other tasks to assist the Palestinians in the camps, apart from political and military activities?

[Al-Fahum] What do you mean by the Palestinian groups and organizations? If you mean the PNSF, I should state that this front does extend social, economic, and political assistance to Palestinian groups, especially in Syria and Lebanon where remarkable work is being done. We have schools and hospitals in the camps. In Jordan, because of the restrictions that the government has created for us, we cannot provide these services directly, but we do so indirectly by means of our "Ansars" or helpers.

[ETTELA'AT] In your opinion, what is the reason for the splinter groups among the Palestinian organizations?

It appears that in view of the relatively small number of Palestinians, there is a profusion of groups and factions. Why is that?

[Al-Fahum] In the past, the Palestinian groups were formed on the basis of their ideological beliefs such as rightists, Marxists, and moderates. Therefore, there were deep-rooted ideological beliefs. The reason for this proliferation of groups is very simple. The Palestinian nation is not a single unit, as in Iran. The Palestinians are scattered everywhere. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] In your opinion, was the expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians carried out in accordance with a precalculated plan, or was it to vindicate the killing of an Israeli border guard?

[Al-Fahum] At present the principle of Islamism is a burning topic everywhere, which has instilled fear in the West. The United States also considers fundamentalism a serious danger for the future of its vital interests. The rise of Islamism in Algeria, Sudan, Tunis, Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine threatens Western interests. On this basis, Israel is playing its role within the framework of Western policies by suppressing the Palestinian Muslims. The deportation of the Palestinians who are members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad can be analyzed in this context. These people are the leaders of Islamic movements. This plan, aimed at undermining Hamas and other Islamic movements and weakening the Muslims, has been precalculated by Israel.

Israel wants the Islamic movements to be weakened inside and outside the occupied territories. This is because the role of the Muslims is extremely important and significant in the liberation of Palestine and in neutralizing the plot of compromise with Israel. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] There has been mention of progress in the peace talks between Syria and the Zionist regime, and Jordan and the Zionist regime. In your opinion, is there any chance of separate peace accords between Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan with Israel?

[Al-Fahum] Regarding Syria, I should state that this country will not take steps for an individual peace accord with Israel. I believe that Syria's strategy is very clear and its stance on Palestine very sincere. The Syrians want Israel to withdraw from Jordan's West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem. They also support the establishment of a Palestinian government in these regions as the first step in this continuing struggle.

[ETTELA'AT] In view of the fact that prior to the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the latter was considered a ballast which helped foil U.S. domination in the Middle East, how do the developments in the Eastern Bloc following the collapse of the Soviet Union affect the region and the Palestinian groups?

[Al-Fahum] The Soviet Union supported us and gave us arms. It trained Palestinian forces and extended its political support in our favor regarding the United States. Therefore, the collapse of the Soviet Union weakened our position. The newly independent Central Asian republics—even the Muslim-majority ones—are vying with one another over establishing relations with Israel. With the dismantling of the Soviet Union, the Palestinians have lost a powerful ally. We are Muslims and Palestine is an Islamic land, but a united Soviet Union was our valuable ally against the West and the United States.

[ETTELA'AT] Does the PNSF consider the formation of a 10-group Palestinian front within the framework of uniting all the Palestinian groups as a defeat for it?

[Al-Fahum] This is neither a victory nor a defeat. In the past there have been numerous Palestinian groups which continue their political existence. We specified a distinct framework for our participation in this coalition which pursues a definite objective. This framework was based on withdrawing from the peace talks, supporting the intifadah, and expanding the scope of armed struggle against Israel. These conditions resulted in gains for Hamas and Islamic movements and for the struggle of the Palestinian nation.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you view the Palestinian groups' and people's reaction to the PNSF?

[Al-Fahum] The Palestinian nation is very serious about continuing the struggle. This is why it supported the PNSF's stance on condemning the peace talks.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you view Iran's stance regarding the Palestine issue?

[Al-Fahum] Prior to the victory of the Islamic Revolution and the arrival of Imam Khomeyni (may God be pleased with him), Iran unfortunately was helping Israel. The shah of Iran was exporting oil to Israel and extending political support to it, even though it was our enemy. Imam Khomeyni set up an Islamic government and helped the Palestinian nation and also made efforts for its liberation. The Islamic Revolution called on the Islamic world to adopt a unified stance regarding Palestine and to struggle against imperialism and colonialism.

[ETTELA'AT] Has the PNSF been successful in attaining the objectives it has set for itself?

[Al-Fahum] No. We have not been successful. The liberation of Palestine is a difficult task and requires protracted struggle. This task also requires solidarity among Arabs and coordinated measures by the Islamic world. Iran is struggling to attain Islamic objectives and Syria the Arab objectives.

[ETTELA'AT] We thank you for giving us your time.

Islamic Jihad Leader on Deportations, Peace

NC0702184093 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 26 Jan 93 p 12

[First of unspecified number of installments of "exclusive" interview with Dr. Fathi Ibrahim al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine, by unidentified correspondent in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] [ETTELA'AT] In your opinion, why did the Zionist regime expel more than 400 Palestinian personalities in the current circumstances? What distinguishes this measure in the context of the present situation on the international and Palestinian level?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The first factor is the Zionist philosophy of expelling Palestinian Muslims and replacing them with Jews. This is a secret desire in the heart of every Jew. Only some express it overtly (and these are known as rightists) and these people are the ones who daily demand the expulsion of Palestinians. [passage omitted]

The second reason is Rabin believes that with the expulsion of a few hundred leaders of the popular anti-Zionist struggle he will have eliminated a major obstacle to the peace talks and will be able to give concrete form to the U.S.-sponsored peace plan.

The third reason is that the popular struggle is climaxing and the number of armed operations have resulted in an increase in antiregime protests by Israelis against the Rabin government accusing him of not being able to control the intifadah and ensure security. Thus, Rabin was faced with a severe crisis and resorted to this dangerous decision in an attempt to save the situation and prevent the toppling of his government.

The final reason is that by such an action, Rabin expected to assist the Palestinians participating in the peace talks by segregating them from the victorious struggle of the Palestinian freedom fighters. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] How many of the deportees are members of the Islamic Jihad Movement?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Nearly 50 of them.

[ETTELA'AT] Who is the most important of these 50?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The most prominent personality is Shaykh 'Abdallah Shami.

[ETTELA'AT] How many other persons have been deported since the intifadah began?

[Al-Shaqaqi] About 70.

[ETTELA'AT] How long do you think the deportees can continue in their present situation?

[Al-Shaqaqi] They insist that they will continue to endure the present situation until they can return to their country. They will, in my opinion, stay there until some international agreement is reached, specifying an exact date for their collective return to Palestine. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] We are in the sixth year of the intifadah. How do you assess the past situation? How long do you think the current situation will continue? Earlier you had stated that the Palestinian revolution will triumph when the Arab countries cooperate. Now we are observing that these countries are moving toward peace with Israel. What is the fate of the intifadah?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Initially we were apprehensive about whether the intifadah would even last a day or a week. We did not believe that it would last more than a week as it was a new phenomenon and we were concerned.

Today we are confidently entering the sixth year of the intifadah and we understand its nature more clearly now and we understand its mechanism. The intifadah is a divine miracle that is taking place for the benefit of a living nation. [passage omitted]

As for the intifadah and Arab countries, we believe that if the intifadah had not been beleaguered by the Zionist regime and the West and certain Arab countries, there is no doubt its effects would have been more strongly reflected inside Palestine. Similar uprisings would have erupted in various parts of the Arab countries and an all-encompassing revolution would have emerged in the regime that would have threatened the pro-Western regimes. Then we would have been able to move faster toward freedom and independence.

It was because of the lack of cooperation from these countries and their direct and indirect cooperation with the occupied Jerusalem regime that the intifadah encountered hardships. We can cite as an example our brothers in Egyptian prisons whose sole crime was to give financial assistance and cooperation to the intifadah while they were in Egypt. This is one such example of the cooperation of an Arab regime with the occupied Jerusalem regime to suppress the intifadah. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] What are the differences between the Islamic Jihad Movement and Hamas? In what ways do they act separately?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Hamas is part of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, which has had its roots in Palestine for the past 50 years and is part of the organization that was first formed in Egypt 65 years ago.

The Brotherhood had a vast force prior to the intifadah but their activities centered mostly around cultural, charitable, and health schemes to which the military and political aspects were added when the intifadah began and Hamas was established.

[ETTELA'AT] When was the 10-member Palestinian coalition group formed and with what objective? Is this a tactical or strategic coalition?

[Al-Shaqaqi] This is undoubtedly a tactical coalition. The 10-member coalition consists of various groups.

Four of these are the nationalist groups of the PLO, which are the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Nidal Front [as published], and four other groups, including the Palestine National Salvation Front in Syria, Hamas, and the Islamic Jihad Movement, who have numerous ideals and aspirations.

Islamic groups will never accept any compromise solutions. Even if the nationalistic groups accept some temporary solutions, they still have many differences with the PLO on most issues.

There are two common goals that have brought these groups close together: First, proliferating intifadah operations, which is the general objective favored by all Palestinians as well as 'Arafat's supporters; and second, defeating the plan for municipal autonomy, which is the main motivating factor of this coalition. Such a defeat would be of immense importance if carried out successfully and would meet the objectives of all the groups and result in the surrender of the region. This coalition is important for us and if we are able to defeat this so-called autonomy plan, our battle against the usurpers will certainly enter an important stage. [passage omitted]

Egypt

President Mubarak Returns From Damascus Visit

NC0902172093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1702 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak returned to Egypt from Damascus tonight, following a three-hour visit to Syria in which he held talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Musa, Swedish Counterpart Discuss Bosnia, Ties

NC0902221993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his Swedish counterpart, Margaretha af Ugglas, held a second round of talks this evening during which they completed discussing issues of common concern, primarily developments in Bosnia-Hercegovina. They stressed the importance of a solution in Bosnia based on UN resolutions with a view toward maintaining the rights of Muslims and the other concerned parties.

The two sides also reviewed various aspects of Mediterranean cooperation and agreed to promote bilateral relations in all fields.

Meeting With Mubarak

NC1002090093 Cairo MENA In Arabic in Arabic 0809 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas at the presidential office in Heliopolis this morning. Foreign Minister 'Arm Musa and Swedish Ambassador to Egypt Jan Stahl attended the meeting.

The Swedish minister later said that she conveyed to President Mubarak the greetings of Sweden's king and queen and an invitation to visit Sweden. She added that she discussed with the president European issues, the importance of encouraging free trade in the world, and the need to resist protectionist measures to maintain open trade among various regions.

On the Palestinian deportees issue, she noted that her country's position on this subject is well known; it calls for their return to their country in keeping with UN Security Council Resolution 799. Recalling Sweden's support for the peace process, she said she hopes this crisis will be resolved. She expressed her country's admiration for Egypt's major role in the Middle East peace process.

Asked about the prospect for turning the Middle East into a region free from nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction while Israel continues to possess a nuclear arsenal, af Ugglas noted that there have been encouraging signs that Israel will begin a serious dialogue on preventing the proliferation of such weapons and controlling the acquisition of arms in the region. She said this is very encouraging.

Foreign Minister Musa remarked that the Swedish foreign minister discussed with President Mubarak her country's position on the complexities of the Middle East issue and the peace process, European developments, and bilateral ties.

He announced that she informed the president that several Swedish ministers concerned with economy and trade will visit Egypt soon to upgrade bilateral cooperation. Musa noted that Sweden is the current chairman of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and is actively discussing Mediterranean security issues.

Rabin Stand Said Could Lead to Talks' Collapse

NC1002073093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0617 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM today warns Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that if he does not curb his political immoderation [yahud min ghulwa'ihi al-siyasi] and adopt a more realistic approach to current and future developments, the peace talks might totally collapse.

Referring to his repeated remarks that allowing 100 Palestinian deportees to return is the most that Israel will offer—something rejected by all the Palestinian deportees—AL-AHRAM says that Rabin, who was totally at fault in his deportation decision, is persisting in his error. It notes that he still has the chance to correct the situation and extricate himself from the predicament of flagrantly defying the UN Security Council resolution demanding their return.

AL-AHRAM adds: Rabin wants to turn the deportees crisis he provoked into the first line of combat in a planned battle against the world community represented by the United Nations and its Security Council. By this battle he wants to assert that he will never submit to UN resolutions even if approved by international consensus. This is a policy of idiocy and decline.

Estimated $1.35 Billion Received in 1992 Grants

NC0902123993 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1051 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—A responsible source at the International Cooperation Ministry has stated that grants Egypt received last year with the knowledge of the International Cooperation Ministry are estimated at $1.35 billion. The grants came from various sources, including the United States, Germany, Italy, France, Denmark, Switzerland, and Canada. This is in addition to material donations. These grants are used to finance many important projects and infrastructure projects.

Sudan

TNA Urges Evacuation of Egyptian Forces From Hala'ib

AB0902153693 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The Transitional National Assembly [TNA] has confirmed the Sudanese identity of the Hala'ib area by virtue of its belonging to the homeland in terms of territory, people, and history. The Assembly condemned all forms of aggression against the territory or the identity of its inhabitants. This was stated in the report of the select committee, set up by the TNA in its second session, on the crisis in the Hala'ib triangle. Mr. Ali Muhammad Shummu, chairman of the committee, presented the report to the Assembly on 8 February.

The report says that the inhabitants of Hala'ib are among the oldest tribes of Sudan who have contributed most to Sudan's history and heritage. It called on the government not to cede even an inch of the dear territory, and urged it to pursue its efforts to achieve the evacuation of the Egyptian forces from the territory, and to resist Egyptian efforts to deny the fact that Hala'ib is Sudanese, and that its inhabitants are Sudanese by expelling or [word indistinct] or threatening its original inhabitants.

The TNA praised the government's wisdom in tackling the crisis, and its observance of the good and time-honored relations between the peoples of Sudan and Egypt. The Assembly called on the government to continue its peaceful course in confirming the fact that the territory belonged to Sudan by peaceful means and through goodwill, or by means of arbitration or negotiation, so as to avoid damaging the cordial relations between the two brotherly peoples.

The Assembly called on the Egyptian Government, the Egyptian People's Assembly, and political leaders in Egypt to emulate Sudan's exalted model of concern about the eternal friendship between the peoples of Sudan and Egypt, and not to sacrifice these relations because of a piece of land, regardless of its area or importance.

The TNA commended the fraternal states of Syria, the Libyan Jamahiriyah, and Palestine for their goodwill missions aimed at bringing Sudan and Egypt to some form of agreement. The Assembly said that the peoples of the Nile Valley were very close to one another, and that the two countries' intermeshed interests called for a stable formula for relations that would rise above the whims and personal disputes of the rulers.

Al-Bashir Says Sudan Will Not Cede 'Inch' of Territory

EA0902153093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has stressed Sudan's adherence to its rights in Hala'ib and that it will not cede even an inch of its territory. His excellency said this during his meeting at his office in Friendship Hall yesterday with a delegation of the Egyptian Liberal Party, led by its chairman Dr. Mustafa Kamal Murad, which had arrived in the country on 7 February in line with a people's initiative by the party to contain the Hala'ib crisis.

He added that the Sudanese Government had no objection to the convening of the joint Sudanese-Egyptian committee to reach a solution to the problem. He explained that the Egyptian Government had continued to put off the meeting of the committee so as to entrench its policies towards Hala'ib.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stressed the futility of the policy pursued by the Egyptian Government, such as conspiring against Sudan and attempting to distort its image throughout the world. He said it was exploiting the Hala'ib issue to make Sudan deviate from its Islamic orientation.

His excellency briefed the delegation on Sudan's position on the issue and told them about the escalation of the problem by the Egyptian Government, whereas the Sudanese Government did not match what the Egyptian Government did. He said that the matter had now worsened with the military occupation by the Egyptian authorities. This compelled Sudan to draw these excesses to the attention of the UN Security Council and regional organizations.

TNA Official Calls For Egyptian Withdrawal From Region

EA0602211393 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Feb (SUNA)—Abd al-Rahman al-Adini, deputy chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Transitional National Assembly [TNA], has called on Egypt to take more positive steps by completely withdrawing its military and civil presence from Hala'ib and returning to the course of [word indistinct] dialogue through the joint committee between the two countries. Al-Adini asked Egypt to create an atmosphere conducive to solving all outstanding problems between the two countries by negotiation and to turn to building a solid base for joint work that serves the joint interests of the two peoples to enable them to perform their regional and international roles. The deputy chairman of the TNA Foreign Relations Committee expressed his pleasure at the (?apparent) Egyptian compliance with some Arab initiatives, out of concern for the bond that joins the two peoples.

Egypt Reportedly Begins Prospecting in Hala'ib

NC0602213893 Paris AFP in English 1825 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 6 (AFP)—Egypt has started to prospect for manganese in the disputed border territory

of Hala'ib, claimed by Sudan and Egypt, the Sudanese state-owned weekly Darfur al-Jadidah said Saturday [6 February].

The paper said Egyptian experts and technicians, escorted by guards, were seen in the territory, located on the Red Sea Coast.

Egyptian authorities started a settlement operation by moving a number of its citizens to the area, encouraging them to stay in the arid desert where the paper says it is difficult to survive, the paper added.

The weekly reported that Egyptian television recently showed a number of people in Hala'ib speaking Egyptian Arabic dialect, in order to prove that the territory is Egyptian.

The Sudanese government has called for the immediate withdrawal of Egyptian military and civilian personnel in Hala'ib to allow for a negotiated settlement of the dispute.

Government 'Has No Intention To Hinder' Nile Flow

EA0702144593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (SUNA)—Sudan has no intention to hinder the flow of the Nile water into Egypt and fully respects all international charters and agreements it has signed with Egypt regarding the Nile water, said Irrigation Ministry First Undersecretary Dr. Ahmad Muhammad Adam. He denied anew that Sudan is thinking of launching sabotage strike on the high dam and that Sudan is not affected by the presence of the dam.

Dr. Adam announced the Sudan's readiness to involve in joint irrigation projects with Egypt, affirming the Sudan's right of establishing irrigation projects on the Nile to utilise 4 billion cubic meters of water, its remaining portion of the Nile water allocated to the Sudan to 18.5 cubic meters, he said. [sentence as received]

Meanwhile, the conference on the Nile water concluded sessions Saturday [6 February]. The Sudan participated in the conference by a delegation headed by the irrigation first undersecretary. The conference issued recommendations that stressed the necessity of promotion of the Nile basin's countries irrigation capabilities relying on their own resources. The conference further emphasized the significance of the joint projects and mapping out of a plan to develop water resources at the state and regional levels.

'Differences' Reported Among Islamic Front Aides

PM0902125193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Feb 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Mu'awiyah Yasin: "'Islamic Front' Officials Admit Differences Within Its Ranks"]

[Excerpts] London—Officials of the National Islamic Front [NIF], which supports Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir's regime, have ruled out the existence of differences between al-Bashir and NIF Secretary General Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, but they admitted "deep differences" among the civilian members of the NIF over a number of issues. A conflict between the Islamic movement's founders and its young leadership, usually described as intransigent, seems to have resulted in the resurgence of the founders. The opposition, however, says that the conflict is basically between members of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation [RCC].

Sudanese opposition figures in London say that, according to their sources in Khartoum, there has been a sharp disagreement in the RCC between two main trends, one including Lt. Gen. al-Bashir, Information Minister Brigadier General Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, and Interior Minister Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, and the other including Deputy Prime Minister Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the official in charge of security affairs, Brigadier General Bakri Hasan Salih, and Lieutenant Colonel Ibrahim Shams al-Din.

The opposition figures also said that, as a result of Dr. Hasan al-Turabi's statement two weeks ago speaking of the imminent dissolution of the RCC and his subsequent statement accusing REUTER of distorting his statement, Brig. Gen. Salih and Lt. Col. Shams al-Din held Lt. Gen. al-Bashir for 24 hours in his living quarters at the army's general headquarters in Khartoum and did not release him until he promised to affirm publicly that the council would continue to exist.

AL-HAYAH has asked some Sudanese Government officials about that. They replied with a question, saying that "if Shams al-Din and Salih, who are outranked by Lt. Gen. al-Bashir, could arrest the head of state, why did they not, on the same night, announce a corrective coup that would rid them of him forever?" They added that the opposition's claims "are self-defeating because they are completely illogical."

The opposition figures said that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir and the interior and information ministers favor dissolution of the council to pave the way for al-Bashir's election as president of the republic and broader power sharing to ensure his continuation. Senior NIF officials approached by AL-HAYAH say that al-Turabi is on the side of the military and that the claims about conflict between him and any of the RCC members are unfounded.

One of them said that there were differences within the front itself, as the founders who hold no public posts "feel that they have been marginalized while al-Turabi, of the same generation, enjoys vast influence."

The most prominent founders include Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad, former interior minister; 'Uthman Khalid Madwi (lawyer and businessman); Muhammad Yusuf Muhammad, former speaker of the parliament dissolved by Lt. Gen. al-Bashir; and Yasin

'Umar al-Imam, chairman of the board of directors of the government paper AL-INQADH AL-WATANI. [passage omitted]

Government Officials To Meet SPLA's Garang in Uganda

AB0602203093 Paris AFP in English 1648 GMT 6 Feb 93

[By David Chazan]

[Text] KAMPALA, Feb 6 (AFP) - Sudanese government officials said Saturday [6 February] they would hold peace talks in the Ugandan capital Kampala with a major southern rebel leader, John Garang.

The announcement by 'Ali al-Haj, the government's chief peace negotiator and economic planning minister, came ahead of a visit to the Sudanese capital Khartoum on Wednesday [10 February] by Pope John Paul II.

The pope, who celebrated mass Saturday in the northern Ugandan town of Gulu, toward the Sudanese border, is expected to defend the cause of Sudan's southern Christian minority.

Al-Haj said he was heading a government delegation which was "in Kampala to talk peace with Dr. Garang." He gave no date for the opening of the talks, which he said would be mediated by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.

In Gulu, a Sudanese bishop handed the pontiff an open letter signed by seven Sudanese church leaders complaining that northern Moslems were persecuting the mainly Christian and animist southerners, causing mass starvation and depriving them of health care.

The letter, delivered by Paride Taban, bishop in the southern town of Torit, where Garang has had his headquarters, said the Khartoum government had attacked rebel-held areas this week, killing at least five people.

The letter said the government was composed of "people who persecute, torture and kill pastors, priests, sisters, catechists and evangelists."

Garang founded the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in 1983 to fight Islamic domination of the mainly Christian and animist south.

Dialogue Postponed

EA1002091593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Dr. 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad, head of the Sudanese delegation to the peace talks has announced that an agreement between a government delegation and three of the rebel commanders concluded in Kampala had approved the suitability [words indistinct] various initiatives and dialogues as the basis for the next round of talks. He added that the meeting had been postponed at the request of the three commanders until the completion of their endeavors toward unifying the factions of the rebel movement so as to facilitate the success of the next round of Abuja talks.

He said the two sides participating in the Kampala talks had called on the warring factions to respect and adhere to all the agreements on the provision of relief to the needy in the operational areas.

The meetings of the government delegation in Kampala were at the initiative of the Sudanese Government. The participants from the rebel movement were: Carabino Kuany Bol, rebel Garang's deputy and deputy commander in chief of the so-called Sudanese People's Liberation Army; Arok Thuon Arok, member of the High Command of the rebel movement and the movement's deputy chief of staff for administration and logistics; and Faustino Atem, the second in command of the second axis of the movement.

The government delegation to the talks was joined by Mr. Inayat 'Abd al-Hamid Muhammad, Sudan's ambassador in Kampala, Brigadier Mathiang Malwal, the roving ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, and Commissioner Musa 'Ali Sulayman.

RCC Chairman Receives Libyan Integration Official

EA0702150093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Feb (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, received here today Dr. Faruq al-Bushra, secretary for Sudanese-Libyan integration. Dr. al-Bushra told the press that the meeting dealt with the outcome of the visit by Mr. Jum'ah al-Fazzani, chairman of the General People's Committee for Unity, as well as the recent visit by the Libyan trade delegation to the country. He pointed out that the visits had stressed investment policies in order to give a push to the relations between the two countries by tackling debts in the form of investment. Stress was also laid on trade and the expansion in the exchange of commodities so as to bridge the gap between the Jamahiriyah and Sudan.

His excellency said that the visits agreed on a plan to implement the directives of the internationalist leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in pushing investments within the framework of political and executive responses in Sudan and with the aim of giving embodiment to integration which should lead to a union of the two countries.

RCC Chairman, Ethiopian Delegation Discuss Refugees

EA0402205093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1620 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 4 Feb (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], General Umar al-Bashir met Thursday [4 February] in his office at the Armed

Forces' General Command with the visiting Ethiopian interior minister and the accompanying delegation.

In a press statement following the meeting, the Ethiopian minister stated that they acquainted Gen al-Bashir on the outcome of the talks which took place between the Sudanese and Ethiopian sides and signing of an agreement on voluntary repatriation of Ethiopian refugees. He indicated that they extended thanks to the government and the people of the Sudan for hosting Ethiopian refugees, adding that the talks which they conducted in the Sudan were successful and constructive. He [word indistinct] that their talks in the Sudan will further boost the distinguished relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the state minister for refugees affairs, Brig (retd) 'Abd-al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim, said in a press statement that the talks and the agreement signed by the Sudan and Ethiopia were in the framework of the brotherly relations between the two countries and reflection [of] the two peoples' desire for strengthening further the ongoing cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] toward solution of the refugees problems and helping them.

Representative of the UNHCR in the Sudan John Horekens [name as received] has said that the commission will provide the Sudan and Ethiopia with all the required means for implementing the voluntary repatriation of the Ethiopian refugees. He explained that the Sudan has declared its willingness to host any refugee who does not want to return to his home country. [passage omitted]

EC Expresses Desire To Resume Relations

EA0702203793 Khartoum SUNA in English 1655 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Feb (SUNA)—The EC has expressed [the] desire to resume cooperation relations with the Sudan in all fields of economic and trade cooperation and financial assistance, following positive developments in the country. The EC initiative was announced by EC representative Mr Charles Paul during a meeting with chairmen of Transitional National Assembly (TNA) external relations and peace committees, Prof Shakir al-Sarraj and Ahmad al-Radi [Jabir] respectively, and TNA Economic Affairs Committee deputy chairman, Dr Abdullah (?Badawi) Sunday. The EC move followed continuous positive developments in Sudan in the field of democracy, the peace process, human rights and developmental work.

The EC representative expressed sorrow over the stoppage of joint cooperation relations since 1990, caused by lack of information on the real situation in Sudan. He hailed the accomplishments scored by the Sudan, which contributed to boosting EC respect and trust towards the Sudan.

The EC representative conveyed to the MP's the EC's desire to import sorghum from the Sudan after the country had achieved a surplus in food grains, as confirmed by the food and agriculture organisation (FAO) besides resumption of joint cooperation and financial aid in all spheres in the context of [the] Lome Convention.

The chairmen of TNA specialised committees welcomed the positive EC initiative and called on the government to exert more efforts for the realisation of peace in the country, noting that the previous EC decision had been based on incorrect information.

The EC representative commended the concrete positive developments realised in Sudan and called for stepping up information work so that the international public opinion will realise these developments.

Head of [the] TNA peace committee called on the EC to exercise pressure on the outlaws' movement to realisation of a just and comprehensive peace in the Sudan.

Democratic Unionist Party Leader Criticizes Regime

NC0702084293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0606 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party and leader of the al-Khatimiyah sect, has stated that the current differences and escalation between Egypt and Sudan are due to the Sudanese regime's suspect foreign relations. [passage omitted]

In an interview with [Cairo's] AL-SIYASI AL-MISRI [The Egyptian Politician] newspaper today, al-Mirghani said that everyone, not just the Democratic Unionist Party, has been harmed by the policies and actions of the ruling regime. Some have been killed and others have had their dignity violated. [passage omitted]

Al-Mirghani rejected the regime's announcement that it is ready to reconcile with the opposition parties, saying that such a statement is inconsistent with its actions and the restrictions it has imposed. He added that the gap is too wide between all the political and popular forces in Sudan and the existing regime, making it impossible to talk about reconciliation.

Al-Mirghani said the Democratic National Grouping is not a party, but a front or a broad alliance consisting of all the political, popular, labor, and military forces in Sudan except the ruling National Front Party. He added that in view of its broad representation, the National Grouping is able and fully equipped to undertake its duties to restore Sudan's familiar image.

He noted that Sudan now has become a center for terrorist activity and that the parties concerned and targeted by this activity are aware of it.

He said that the regime has deepened the economic crisis and increased the people's suffering. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Hala'ib issue, al-Mirghani said that the Sudanese regime has created the problem in order to

divert the people's attention from their difficult situation and to arouse their patriotic feelings and garner their support.

Tunisia

Belgian Foreign Minister Arrives for Official Visit

LD0702182093 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Mr. Willy Claes, Belgian deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, arrived in Tunisia this afternoon for an official visit at the invitation of Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Habib Benyahia. Mr. Claes praised the quality of the bilateral relations existing between Tunisia and Belgium, and noted that he will discuss with Tunisian officials a number of issues in connection with bilateral and multilateral cooperation, in particular in view of the fact that Belgium is preparing to assume the EC chairmanship.

The Belgian guest touched on the visit which the Belgian minister of foreign trade intends to pay to our country this month to preside over the proceedings of the Tunisian-Belgian higher joint committee.

The Belgian guest affirmed his country's readiness to contribute toward executing the projects of Tunisia's eighth plan. [passage omitted]

To Mediate in Libyan Issue

LD0702163693 Brussels La Une Radio Network in French 1600 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Willy Claes arrived in Tunis today on a 48-hour official visit to review a series of issues with Maghreb states, including trade issues. Willy Claes said that Belgium is acting as a mediator in the conflict between Libya and Western countries with regard to Libyan involvement in the Lockerbie and UTA bombings, in which two airliners exploded in flight, killing many people over Scotland and Africa. A meeting is also planned with the PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Meets With Counterpart

LD0802082893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Habib Benyahia yesterday evening held a banquet in honor of Mr. Willy Claes, the Belgian deputy prime minister and minister for foreign affairs, who is on an official visit to Tunisia. The two ministers delivered speeches.

Mr. Benyahia yesterday afternoon held private talks with Mr. Claes before they were joined by members of the two delegations. They discussed bilateral relations, which they described as excellent and exemplary. They also covered the scope for developing those relations, Tunisia's relations with the European Community, the relations between the Arab Maghreb and the EC, and other current world issues, especially the Middle East problem and the tragedy of Bosnia-Hercegovina. During the talks, congruity of views of the two sides became very clear, especially with respect to supporting peace in the Middle East region.

Following the talks, Mr. Claes said that the peace process in the Middle East must be given every chance of success and all the conditions necessary for peace on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 799 dealing with the issue of the Palestinian deportees, should be made available. The Belgian minister also pointed out that the two sides had agreed that Arab Maghreb states and the European Economic Community should conduct intensive cooperation for the protection of societies and states built on democratic principles, against the threat posed by racist and extremist groups that represent a form of oppression that is emerging in Europe and elsewhere.

Regarding Arab Maghreb and EC relations, the Belgian minister stressed the need for the EC to strengthen its ties with the Arab Maghreb and with Tunisia in particular. He added that Belgium, which is due to assume the EC Presidency during the last six months of this year, will do everything possible to organize and deepen these relations. He said: "We shall do everything to find a satisfactory and final solution to the Lockerbie crisis between Libya and certain Western states, which is obstructing Maghreb-European dialogue."

Algeria's Hardi Address at Saqiat Sidi Yusuf Anniversary

LD0902121993 Algiers APS in English 1143 GMT 9 Feb 93

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Saqiat Sidi Yusuf, Feb 9 (APS)—Minister of Interior and Local Collectivities, Mohamed Hardi, made a speech on the occasion of the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the events of Saqiat Sidi Yusuf (Tunisia) in presence of the Tunisian delegation led by Minister of State and Interior, Abdallah Kallal.

"Saqiat Sidi Yusuf where Algerian and Tunisian bloods melted, said interior minister, has become a symbol of solidarity, sincere fraternity and sacrifice in order that ideals of justice and freedom triumph".

"By the celebration of this turning point in the history of the two peoples, he continued, we want to make of this anniversary a lesson and a stimulus for the construction of our future".

"The colonizer, he underlined, wanted to compromise our future by making of the delimitation of the borders of the two countries a source of disputes. But, he continued, thanks to the consciousness of the two peoples, and the wisdom of the political leaderships of the two countries, we managed to avoid this trap".

Moreover, the Algerian minister noted that "the danger threatening us today is more serious than that of the past", underlining in this context that "the plots waged by the enemy in the past have only reinforced our ranks and consolidated our unity".

He further added that "the plot we are subject to is more dangerous as it is aimed at shaking our unity and sawing doubts about our ideals and Arab-Islamic values".

After recalling that "colonialism occupied yesterday our countries, destroyed our villages, killed our men, women and children in order to attempt break our will", Hardi declared that "Saqiat Sidi Yusuf, similarly to other areas of the two countries, has been a witness of these atrocities".

He added that the "danger we are facing today is attacking our values and our constant principles, which in the past constituted our force".

"This danger, he said, is characterized by terrorism, violence and sabotage, a phenomenon that has been unknown up till now in Algeria where the brother kills his brother, the citizen destroys the belongings of the state in the name of Islam for the setting up of a so called Islamic state that denies the values of our religion".

"Our common enemy today uses Islam because of its place in our societies to materialize these destabilizing visions with the appearance of fitna (division) and violence", he said.

"Algeria and Tunisia, he underlined, are condemned to act together in order to face up this challenge and guarantee the future of raising generations".

In conclusion, Hardi noted that the "two countries managed to go beyond some obstacles and that the will which animated them to reach their objectives is greater".

Member of Political Prisoners Defense Group Arrested

LD0902201693 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] In Tunisia the authorities still have the Political Prisoners' Defense Committee, founded on 2 February, in their sights. Its coordinator, Salah Hamzaoui, was charged and detained yesterday. Rida Boughezi reports:

[Boughezi] The 18 signatories to the communique of the Political Prisoners' Defense Committee were summoned one by one and questioned by the services of the Ministry of the Interior, at some length but very politely, according to one of them, Moncef Marzouki, chairman of the Tunisian Human Rights League, which was dissolved last June. Marzouki and 16 other members of the committee were released, but the coordinator of the group, Salah Hamzaoui, an academic and researcher, was detained. He is accused of setting up an illegal association, defamation, and spreading false news, three crimes for which he, like the rest of the group, faces a heavy prison sentence.

The Tunisian authorities reacted strongly to the communique published by the group, whose legality they have contested and whose statements they have described as full of lies.

In human rights circles this Political Prisoners' Defense Committee is accused of being composed almost exclusively of left-wing or extreme left-wing activists. According to the same circles, the committee is solely motivated by the sentences which recently hit the ranks of the Tunisian Communist Workers Party, a tiny unrecognized Marxist-Leninist group, which is is active in university circles.

Legal sources say that the group of 18 will appear before the magistrates in the middle of this week.

Kuwait

Oil Minister Explains Increased Production

LD1002092093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0828 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Feb (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister 'Ali al-Baghli said in a press interview published here today that Kuwait's increased oil production, which has reached 1,988,000 barrels per day, has nothing to do with the drop in price.

Al-Bahgli added in an interview with AL-ANBA' that it is impossible for the few barrels which Kuwait produces to be behind the sudden decline in prices [words indistinct], pointing out that the reduction of production will be painful, and affirming that Kuwait supports stability of prices and the unity and cohesion of OPEC.

At the end of interview, the petroleum minister pointed out that OPEC president Alirio Parra has not discussed with Kuwait in detail any reduction or freezing of oil production, but he reviewed general ideas and left each country to formulate the decision in the light of its private interest and the requirements of the market.

Saudi Foreign Minister Delivers Message, Departs

LD0902142393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1158 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Feb (KUNA)— Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Kuwait this afternoon after a short visit during which he delivered a letter to the amir of Kuwait from his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Prior to his departure Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal told KUNA: "This morning I had the honor of meeting with his highness the amir, and later I also had a meeting with His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister. I conveyed a letter from the custodian of the two holy mosques to his highness the amir in the context of the continuous coordination on bilateral relations, on the situation in the region and on our efforts for the good of the two fraternal countries and that of the Arab nation." He added: "Viewpoints were similar and in agreement on all matters, and this consultation is usual between the leaders."

United Arab Emirates

Council Denounces Iran's Occupation of Islands

JN1002103393 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 7 Feb 93 p 7

[Excerpt] The Federal National Council has denounced Iran's continued occupation of the islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa as well as its failure to abide by the memorandum of understanding on Abu Musa island. The Council described this occupation as an infringement on the United Arab Emirates [UAE] sovereignty over its territories.

At the end of the first session of the first round of the ninth legislative term under Speaker al-Haj Bin-'Abdallah al-Muhayribi, the Council urged Iran to take all necessary measures to confirm its commitment to the principles of good neigborliness and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the regional states. The Council also urged the world parliaments to support the UAE in its legitimate right that is based on international legitimacy.

The Council hoped that a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution would be found to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question in a way that would secure Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem. The Council urged Israel to guarantee the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of all the deportees in implementation of Security Council Resolution 799. It described this deportation as a violation of human rights, a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and a threat to the peace process. It urged international bodies and organizations to apply further pressure on the unjust Zionist regime. The Council also urged the Security Council to implement Chapter 7 of the UN Charter in order to make this regime submit to both right and international will by allowing all the Palestinian deportees to return, rather than just some of them as the Zionist regime wishes. [passage omitted]

UN Help Sought in Election To Topple Saddam

PM0902145593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Feb 93 p 5

[Report on interview with Nuri al-Amin, "official in charge of relations and member of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Action Organization in Iraq," by Husni Khashabah in London; date not given"]

[Excerpts] The Iraqi opposition wants the allies to change their strategy toward Baghdad in a way that—through the use of UN resolutions—would officially announce the incrimination of the regime in preparation for the pursuit of its leaders throughout the world. This way it would be possible to speed up the regime's overthrow by the opposition, which says that it has actually developed a common language among its factions and formulated a unified rhetoric which addresses the international order and consolidates pillars of trust with the regional order. And the opposition has drawn up an action program for a transitional government that will prepare the popular scene within two years with a view to crystallizing a permanent constitutional system. [passage omitted]

Where does the Iraqi opposition stand now? Is it capable of filling the vacuum? And how does it assess the recent raids by the allies in Iraqi airspace?

Nuri al-Amin, official in charge of relations and member of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Action Organization in Iraq, believes that the opposition was not happy with the recent raids. How nice it would have been if the allies chose to bombard Saddam Husayn's palaces, as they know there they are. In fact, Saddam is pushing the allies into bombarding Iraq in order to embellish his image and nurture his slogans. He is searching for the loopholes through which to attract sympathy.

Al-Amin proposes to the allies that they adopt a two-part program to topple the regime: The first part is to announce the incrimination of the Iraqi president internationally on charges of terrorism and of exercising national annihilation against his people. The rulings needed for this incrimination actually exist in the relavent Security Council resolutions, especially the articles concerning Iraqi human rights. And if the United Nations endorses the principle of incriminating the Iraqi regime, Iraqi officials will not be able to travel abroad inasmuch as they are the object of the charges.

As for the second part, it concerns dealing with the Iraqi opposition internationally and regionally. The Iraqi opposition aide proposes that dealings with the opposition be developed through further support to enable it to carry out the required task. In this context he points out that opposition delegations have visited regional and international capitals and discussed conditions with the former U.S. Administration and (the then newly elected) President Bill Clinton, who promised to support the opposition.

Al-Amin emphasizes that the opposition is ready to protect the Iraqi people, even while Saddam Husayn is in power, if the United Nations decides to hold general elections in Iraq under its supervision—something which has been implemented in other places in the world—elections by which to demonstrate that the present regime is rejected by the people. In other words, the Iraqi opposition—in his view—is capable of contesting elections held in Iraq under UN supervision even while Saddam himself is in power.

Al-Amin wants the Gulf states to provide further support to and have confidence in the opposition. He says: "We heard Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's recent statements and welcomed them very much. Mubarak urged the Iraqi president to step down in order to rescue the Iraqi people." [passage omitted]

Al-Amin says that the U.S. Administration asked the Iraqi opposition a specific question: What is the suitable method for the transfer of power in Iraq? And the opposition submitted its ideas. The Iraqi opposition official says that the agreed system for the future is based on four pillars: head of state, who is to be elected through general elections after a two-year transitional period; parliament, whose seats correspond to the sectarian distribution of the inhabitants; party pluralism; and a permament Constitution to be put to a popular referendum. [passage omitted]

Al-Amin points out that the Kurdish federal idea announced in the past has been frozen, because it provoked concern among world and regional powers that it could be a prelude to Iraq's partition.

Southern Marshes Reportedly Under Artillery Fire

LD0902181693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The Iraqi regime has once again targeted that country's southern marshes with its artillery fire.

As a result of the recent attacks, which employed incendiary shells, large fires were caused in a number of regions. An official of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq said: The fires in the al-Ammarah marshes are most severe. He added: As a result of the fires, extensive damage and casualties have been caused to the inhabitants of the southern Iraqi marshes in the al-Ammarah region and the surrounding villages. Also, as a result of the artillery fire of the Iraqi Ba'thist army against the al-Nasiriyah marshes, a number of persons, including three children, have been killed.

The Saddam regime has recently resorted to the arrest of large numbers of the inhabitants of al-Nasiriyah and al-Ammarah marshes and has set their homes ablaze in a bid to force the inhabitants of those regions to abandon their homes.

The inhabitants of those regions are currently facing shortages of foodstuff, medicines, and fuel.

Alleged Israeli Group Visit to Kurdistan Denied

NC0902191993 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1625 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The dictatorial regime's media in Baghdad have published false and fabricated reports about an Israeli delegation's visit to Iraqi Kurdistan. To explain the truth, we state the following:

1. An open and democratic society is functioning in Kurdistan, liberated from dictatorship, and many foreign correspondents and observers, as well as 'Aflaqite [Ba'th] party spies abound. All those people can verify that no Israeli delegation has visited Kurdistan, contrary to what happens daily in Egypt and the Arab Maghreb.

2. An American journalist working with the well-known U.S. TIME magazine has visited Kurdistan. It is natural and self-evident that the journalist was not asked about his ethnic origin. It is natural and logical that Jewish, American, and European journalists should not be treated on the basis of the hateful and internationally denounced racial discrimination. Several Arab leaders, above all the late Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, have received Jewish, European, and American journalists. The tyrant of Baghdad has done the same thing several times.

3. The concerned American journalist and other American and European journalists have visited Kurdistan, met with leaders of the Kurdish democratic movement, and interviewed them. It is well known that all Arab leaders, including Palestinian leaders, do not refuse to meet or eschew meeting with Jewish, American, and European journalists. The hangman of the Iraqi people received the well-known Jewish-American politician Steven Solarz six times and begged him to tell Israel of Saddam's consent to the Jewish state's existence and to a reconciliation between the PLO and Israel. Why should Kurdish leaders be deprived of meeting with Jewish politicians and journalists? Didn't 'Arafat receive General Moshe Dayan's daughter a few days ago, conveying to her the PLO's desire for permanent peace with Israel and his wish to visit Israel and talk with its leaders? Why should the Kurds, for example, be deprived of receiving an Israeli politician, although this has not happened yet? Are the Kurds more Arab and more Palestinian than the Palestinian Arabs? Do they want us to be more royalist than the king?

The fact is that no Israeli delegation has visited Iraqi Kurdistan. It is a lie fabricated by the dictatorship domineering the Iraqi people. Our Kurdish people and leaders have the same rights possessed and exercised by their brother Arab leaders in general and the Palestinians in particular.

There is no doubt that real aim behind this lie is to confuse the naive among the Kurdish people and conceal a well-known fact, namely that the Iraqi dictator has allowed the Jewish-American Doctor Laurie Mylroie to visit Iraq as a mediator between Baghdad and Tel Aviv. President Mubarak has even mentioned this mediation. Moreover, Nizar Hamdun's attempt to win the support of the U.S. Jewish community by showing the U.S. Congress an Iranian map with an arrow pointed at Jerusalem as proof of the Islamic Republic of Iran's intention to liberate Jerusalem is a well-known incident and an eternal blot of shame in the forehead of the 'Aflaqists.

'Gang' Behind Irbil Explosions Reportedly Arrested

JN0902182093 (Clandestine) Radio Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Good news from the Interior Ministry of the Kurdistan region's government to the masses of our struggling people. We inform you that a joint force from Hawler [Irbil] Governorate, in cooperation with our people, has been able to apprehend the criminal gang whose hands are stained with the blood of the innocent and poor people. This gang was responsible for the series of explosions in the steadfast city of Hawler. We will inform our respected listeners of the details later.

Identity of Mahdi al-Hakim's Assassin Disclosed

JN1002082393 Nicosia AL-SHAMS in Arabic 23 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] AL-SHAMS has obtained reliable information about the assassination of Iraqi leader Mahdi al-Hakim in Khartoum four years ago. Exclusive information acquired by the March 1991 uprising men revealed the identity of the assassin. His name is Tariq al-'Ani. He is experienced in assassinations and works under diplomatic cover. The assassin is currently residing in East Beirut where he, along with Ibrahim al-Najjar, are supervising similar acts. Information indicates that the two frequently visit Amman for the same purpose.

Russian Foreign Ministry Official Arrives

JN0902143793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1416 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA)—Igor Melekhov, deputy head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern Department, arrived in Baghdad last night.

In a statement to INA, Ivan Igor said that during his visit he will hold talks with a number of Iraqi officials on the latest developments in the region.

Foreign Minister Receives Sudanese Envoy to Saddam

JN0902145993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today received Dr. 'Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, Sudanese minister of the affairs of the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers and envoy to President Saddam Husayn, from his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation in Sudan.

During their meeting, the two sides reviewed fraternal relations and means of promoting them in the interest of the glorious Arab nation's issues.

U.S. Officials Allowed To Visit U.S. Detainees

TA0902162093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Israel will check the U.S. complaint regarding the manner in which the three American citizens suspected of membership in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] were detained. Reacting to the U.S. protest, the Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman announced today that the U.S. representatives can visit the detainees at any time in coordination with the authorities. He added we must remember the three were detained on suspicion of having committed serious offenses, including aiding Hamas.

U.S. Warned on Western Arms Sales to Middle East

TA1002091993 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Israel has recently relayed a sharp warning to the United States that if Western arms sales to the Middle East continue, Israel will lose its qualitative edge over its enemies.

DAVAR has learned that the unusual Israeli warning was issued by Israeli analysts to their U.S. counterparts.

The warning reflects Israel's growing concern over the extensive arms sales, mainly by Western countries, to Arab states such as Syria and Saudi Arabia. Britain and France top the list of countries that have recently increased their arms sales to various Arab countries.

Israel has on various occasions voiced its growing concern to the United States about Iran's unprecedented military buildup and its plans to develop nonconventional weapons.

The latest warning notes that the Syrians have been buying vast quantities of weapons from anybody ready to sell them in a bid to create alternatives to the Soviet Union as a source of arms supplies. Among other things, it has been reported that President al-Asad asked North Korea to supply him hundreds of long-range surface-to-surface missiles.

UN Envoy's Meetings at State Department Reported

TA1002070993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Report from Washington by Arye Golan—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Before her meetings at the State Department, Palestinian delegation spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi announced yesterday that, although they are interested in continuing the political process, the Palestinians will not return to the peace talks as long as the deportees' affair has not been resolved. It was further made known that 'Ashrawi told Edward Djerejian, Sam Lewis, and their colleagues that if the U.S.-Israeli agreement on the gradual return of the deportees were made under the UN and the Security Council auspices, the Palestinians could return to the negotiating table with Israel.

Against this background, Israel's UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi last night sent a letter to Moroccan UN Ambassador Ahmed Senoussi, acting Security Council president. In the letter, Ya'aqobi cites the government resolution of 1 February, stating that it is an act of goodwill, which allows the return of all of the deportees by the end of 1993 and corresponds to the principle of UN Security Council Resolution 799. Ya'aqobi asked that his letter be presented to the Council as an official document. After he sent the letter, Ya'aqobi met Senoussi.

[Ya'aqobi] I explained to him that this move was primarily made to clear the road to the resumption of the peace process and that we believe no additional Security Council steps are needed, as the United States also believes.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 10 February carries a similar report from New York by Aharon Lapidot, adding: "The Security Council will not impose sanctions on Israel in view of the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. This remark was made last night by Israel's UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi after he met with Moroccan Ambassador Ahmed Senoussi, the Council's acting president. He added that the threat of sanctions is over because there is not enough support for them among Council members. The issue of the deportees, he said, may feature in the Council's discussions. Ya'aqobi said that the discussion with the Moroccan ambassador was pleasant and open and that Senoussi told him that the step Israel's Government has taken on the issue of the deportees, as well as the Rabin government policy in general, helped bringing the affair to an end."]

[Golan] At the same time in Washington, Elyaqim Rubinstein, Eytan Bentzur, and Dani Rothschild briefed the State Department team dealing with the Middle East about the offers Israel has so far presented to the Palestinians. After the thorough discussion at the State Department, an Israeli source said last night that the Palestinians will be able to gain many things if they return to the negotiations. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation:

[Rubinstein] We wanted to detail our stands on a series of issues. We wanted to present the complexity of the problems and the solutions as we see them. We wanted to present them with our view of this complex reality, in which there is a need to maintain the balance between the desire to change the current state of affairs to promote the process and observing Israel's interests.

[The 0600 GMT Tel Aviv IDF Radio reel carries a similar report by Washington-based correspondent Qeren Neubach. In a recorded passage, Rubinstein says: "We deeply regret that when they address the Palestinian population in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, our counterparts present reality as gloomy and sad." Neubach further adds: "Nevertheless, Rubinstein stressed that Israel is bringing no new offers for

the negotiations. The deportees affair was only marginally discussed with the U.S. officials, though at this stage, it is the main obstacle."]

[Golan] One of the participants in the discussion said that the Israeli offers have a potential for negotiations that would provide the Palestinians with far-reaching practical arrangements. This morning, the ball is in the Palestinian court, and it is up to them to show up. The discussions with Hanan 'Ashrawi will continue here this afternoon, but State Department officials are worried this morning. They do not believe that the bulk of the Israeli offers on the one hand, and the harsh Resolution 799 on the other, will be enough to push forward the peace talks between Israel and the Arabs, mainly the Palestinians.

Chief of Staff Baraq Claims No Rise in Fatalities

TA0902144393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq says that the claims regarding the increase in fatalities among the inhabitants of the territories recently are groundless. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that in his appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee—in which he reacted to the Betzelem Organization report—Lieutenant General Baraq said the allegation regarding an increase in fatalities exists in the imagination of those who made it rather than in reality. Moreover, the statistics put forward to buttress this allegation included fugitives, not only rioters.

The chief of staff noted that every year since the beginning of the intifadah there are more casualties during the months of December, January and February due to the many commemoration days which enhance the disturbances. Baraq said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers use their weapons only during the pursuit of fugitives or when they face life threatening situations.

Lt. Gen. Baraq suggested not to divide the public into two parts: those who judge others and those who carry out missions on behalf of their country, as the latter are not less sensitive to human life.

Jerusalem Learns Talks With EEC To Resume in Mar

TA1002072193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The discussions with the EEC on updating agreements with Israel will resume at the beginning of March. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Jerusalem has received such information recently. The discussions will deal with updating agreements signed 18 years ago, in which Israel wants to change certain conditions. The talks with the EEC were suspended several weeks ago, and so far no official reason has been given.

Shots Fired From Passing Car Kill 1, Wound 1

TA0902195893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] An Israeli Jew was murdered and an Israeli Arab was slightly wounded a short time ago when shots were fired at the vehicle in which they were travelling in the Gaza Strip. Our army affairs correspondent Beni Liss reports that the vehicle in which the two were travelling had Gaza license plates. After shots were fired at the vehicle, the driver managed to reach an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outpost near Khan Yunus.

The Israeli Jew murdered this evening near Khan Yunus was a vegetable merchant from Holon. His passenger was an Israeli Arab, also a vegetable merchant, from Yafo, our army affairs correspondent reports. Military sources told our correspondent that their vehicle was travelling in an area closed off by the IDF. Our correspondent adds that the vehicle was shot at from a passing car carrying seven armed terrorists. The IDF is now investigating the incident and carrying out a manhunt for the vehicle carrying the terrorists.

Arabs Murdered in Rafah; Firebombs in West Bank

TA1002094493 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 Feb 93 p 2

[Report by ITIM and Yo'av Kaspi]

[Text] Two Arab residents of Rafah's Shabura neighborhood were murdered early last night by a gang of the Fatah's Hawks.

Thirty-two-year-old Samih al-'Ajuz and 48-year-old Sabr Astari were apparently murdered because they were drug dealers and suspected of collaborating with Israel. They were shot to death by a gang of three masked men.

Four firebombs were thrown last night at Army troops in the West Bank, one of them at a unit driving near the village of Baytillu in the Ramallah District. Another firebomb was thrown at an Army position in the Tulkarm refugee camp. There were no casualties and no damage was caused.

Terrorists Receive Heavy Sentences From Court

TA0402141093 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Feb 93 p 2

[Report by Yo'av Kaspi]

[Text] Heavy sentences were metted out by the Nabulus military court yesterday to seven Arabs from the territories convicted of murdering suspected Arab collaborators.

Four consecutive life sentences and 20 years in addition were metted out to Salah Na'if Abu-Ruth, 28, from the Nur al-Shams refugee camp in the Tulkarm District. Abu-Ruth was convicted of murdering four men and one woman from the refugee camp whom he suspected of having collaborated with Israel.

He was also convicted of membership in the Black Panther organization, possessing a pistol and interrogating 12 other people whom he suspected of being collaborators.

Muhammad 'Abd-Rabbuh, 24, and Wahil Ghuzi Wadaq, 18, were sentenced to life imprisonment. Sharif Ahmad Sharif Salman, 17, was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment. The three, residents of Qusin in the Nabulus District, murdered 'Aziya Jabitiyah whom they accused of cooperating with Israel and of "immoral behavior."

The three were also convicted of belonging to their village strike squads, participating in disturbances and distributing leaflets, interrogating 10 people whom they suspected of collaboration and possession of weapons.

Muhammad Shawida al-Radaman, 43, from the village of Burqa' near Nabulus, was sentence to life for murdering and decapitating Hamad Salah.

Al-Radaman was also convicted of membership in Fatah, possessing an Uzi submachine gun and ammunition and hurling petrol bombs at Israeli civilian and Army vehicles.

Muhammad Zahir Shu'la, 26, and 'Amir Zudaq Jabri, 25, from the village of 'Asirah al-Shamaliyah in the Nabulus District were sentenced to 20 years imprisonment and an additional 10 years suspended sentence for murdering Ziyad Ahmad Zadar and for membership in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The two were also convicted weapons possession and ammunition and undergoing military training.

Meretz Criticizes Rise in Fatalities in Territories

TA0702122593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] At the cabinet's weekly session, the ministers were briefed on steps being implemented to alleviate the living conditions of the Palestinians in the territories. No details were given.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that the government and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] were investigating themselves following the exacerbation of violence in the territories and the rise in the number of fatalities.

Peres was responding to a query raised by the Meretz ministers as to whether the authorities had eased the conditions of the Palestinians in the territories, in the spirit of the document Meretz submitted to the prime minister some time ago.

Ministers Aloni and Sarid criticized the rising number of fatalities in the territories. Minister Ya'aqov Tzur called on the Meretz ministers to keep things in the proper proportion, in that eight IDF soldiers have been killed in the territories in recent months.

Speaking on another matter, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told our correspondent that Israel categorically rejects the proposal to reduce the amount of aid it receives from the United States. Peres asserted that inflation has already reeduced the amount by 30 percent.

Betzelem: Rise in Child Fatalities Under Rabin

TA0802123893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Feb 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by Yosi Torpstein and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] A comparison between the last six months of the Likud government headed by Yitzhaq Shamir and the first six months of the Labor government led by Yitzhaq Rabin shows an increase of approximately 20 percent in the number of Palestinian fatalities in the territories, from 63 fatalities in the Shamir period to 76 killed under Rabin.

The number of dead Palestinian children has risen from six under Shamir to 17 under Rabin. This constitutes a climb of approximately 180 percent. These figures were published yesterday by Betzelem, the Israeli information center on human rights in the territories, which appealed to the Israeli Government to "immediately halt the slaughter in the territories."

Betzelem notes that during Rabin's tenure, two-thirds of the fatalities were fatally shot in situations that, in the organization's view, did not pose a risk to the lives of security personnel, whereas in Shamir's time, only half of the Palestinian casualties were mortally wounded under such circumstances. According to Betzelem's assessment, the security forces are not properly observing the rules of engagement, which stipulate that "one must do everything possible to avoid shooting at children under the age of 14" and determine that, when conducting arrests, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] can fire only at the legs of fleeing suspects and not at the upper body.

Betzelem is demanding that the government reformulate the rules of engagement "in the spirit of Israeli law followed by the Israeli police and in accordance with the recommendations issued in the past by the High Court of Justice." The organization is also demanding that the defense establishment consider training soldiers for their policing duties in the territories and prevent whitewashing and cover-ups which result from inaccurate reporting by units in the field. [passage omitted]

IDF Spokesman on Betzelem Fatality Data

TA1002071993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Since the beginning of the intifadah, there has been a constant decline in the number of Palestinians killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' fire, and the number of incidents of irregular IDF conduct in the territories has also diminished.

This statement was made by the IDF spokesman to our correspondent this morning. Brigadier General Ilan Tal stressed that last year, the number of residents killed by soldiers in the territories dropped to half the figure of the year before but, at the same time, there was a rise in the number of Palestinians killed by their own people.

The IDF spokesman said that the IDF data is different from that published by Betzelem. According to him, various organizations may present data in various manners so that it corresponds with their purposes.

Baraq Recommends Purchase of MLRS for IDF

TA0802144393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by military affairs correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, will shortly review the recommendation of Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq to purchase the Multiple Launch Rocket System [MLRS] for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Artillery Corps. Upon his return from the United States several weeks ago the chief of staff decided to expedite the Artillery Corps' replenishment with the MLRS in the framework of the IDF's multi-year plan. Lieutenant General Baraq hopes to implement the deal already this year. The deal, estimated at $300 million, is to be paid off by U.S. aid funds. The MLRS is manufactured by the U.S. company LTV Missiles and Electronics Group.

The chief of staff's decision means that the IDF will not purchase Soltam's Sholef cannon. Military sources have already clarified in the past that the Artillery Corps will not purchase both weapon systems. An argument is expected to ensue in the defense establishment regarding the purchase of the controversial MLRS. The Israeli Military Industries [IMI] wants to replenish the IDF with its own artillery rocket system, and consequently intends to fight the MLRS deal. [passage omitted]

The IMI's offer is cheaper than the MLRS deal. The IMI has pointed out the logistic advantage of the Israeli system which can be installed on various types of vehicles, armored personnel carriers and tanks used by the IDF. The IDF does not employ the M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting vehicle, on which the MLRS is installed.

The IMI's system, however, is not on serial production yet and has still not passed the IDF's admission tests, whereas the MLRS can be purchased immediately.

Alleged Labor Contacts With PLO Reported

TA0402123693 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Feb 93 p 4

[Report by Yehoshu'a Me'iri]

[Text] Senior Labor party officials held contacts in Cairo with PLO leaders during the tenure of the national unity government and also after if it was disbanded. The contacts were held through Egyptian mediation.

The Labor party and PLO representatives agreed on a deal: The PLO promised to urge Israeli Arabs to vote for Labor in the upcoming elections, while Labor, in return, promised it would attempt to freeze settlement activity, repeal the law banning meetings with the PLO, and promote an arrangement with the Palestinians on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

Yitzhaq Shamir, who was prime minister at the time, was informed about these contacts by Foreign Ministry and intelligence sources. One of Shamir's aides confirmed a week ago that the reports received by the prime minister at the time mentioned Shim'on Peres, Nimrod Novik, Avraham Tamir, and Yosi Beilin among those involved in indirect contacts with the PLO.

Beilin also held direct meetings with senior PLO officials. Sa'id Kamal, the PLO representative in Egypt, claims that in June 1991, during a visit to Cairo by a delegation of Labor Knesset members, Beilin met with 'Arafat's special envoy, Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin. On 19 January 1992, Beilin was seen entering a room at the Ramses Hilton in Cairo, and Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat's political adviser, was observed entering the same room several minutes later.

The contacts continued after the Rabin government was established. A senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry official asserted that on 12 September, Beilin, now deputy foreign minister, met with Nabil Sha'th in the Egyptian official's office. The Egyptian said that Beilin was handed a message from 'Arafat to Foreign Minister Peres.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman reported that Beilin totally denies meeting with Abu-Mazin and Nabil Sha'th.

Business Leaders Discuss Autonomy With Arabs

TA0802121993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Israeli business leaders have held discussions recently with the Saudi Arabian minister of finance and Arab businessmen on economic cooperation during Palestinian autonomy. This was revealed this morning at a news conference in Jerusalem that examined the risks and the prospects of economic cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians under autonomy. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] Both representatives of the Israeli business community and the Civil Administration stressed the importance of the economic sphere if the autonomy is to be a success. Speaking for the business sector, Dani Gillerman, the president of the Chambers of Commerce, urged the free passage of goods, services, and manpower between the territories and Israel and the absence of tariff controls as a desirable model for autonomy. He noted that economic cooperation had been neglected during the Camp David peace talks between Israel and Egypt. Gillerman listed tourism, utilization of water resources, and cooperation in infrastructure as examples of possible joint economic activity.

He confirmed that together with other Israeli businessmen he has met recently with the Saudi finance minister and Palestinian and Arab businessmen for talks on economic cooperation:

[Gillerman] It is our belief as the business sector in Israel, again, as I said before, that beyond the economic issues being paramount, it is very, very important that when things happen, they happen right, they happen successfully, and they prove to everybody concerned that everybody stands to benefit from a peace agreement or from self-rule in the territories.

[Weiss] Brigadier General Freddy Zakh, an adviser to the Israeli delegation at the Washington talks, outlined the ways the Civil Administration has encouraged economic development in the territories over the last few years. These measures include tax exemptions for new factories, encouraging outside investment, encouraging exports, and easing restrictions on banking and commercial activity:

[Zakh] All these measures were taken just for one target: to revive the economy, to create more and more jobs within the territories, and we believe that these will serve first, to create a better atmosphere for the peace process, and second, as I said, even to be one of the means to fight against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

[Weiss] Zakh admitted there was still a lack of trust, and that progress is slow. But he said that the results can already be seen in the territories with the opening of new factories and banks, and development of agricultural projects.

Although the mood was optimistic, a measure of how difficult the road ahead is, is that the Palestinians at the Washington peace talks have so far refused to even discuss details of economic cooperation during the autonomy period. [end recording]

New Manual on Shin Bet Interrogation Procedures

TA0402082093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] A new instruction manual on interrogation procedures for Shin Bet personnel has been completed by a special ministerial committee. This manual will replace the Landau Report on Shin Bet operational procedures. The expression moderate physical pressure, which has almost become a cliche, has been deleted from the new manual. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir has the details:

A special ministerial committee, including Justice Minister Liba'i and Police Minister Shahal, as well representatives from the State Attorney's Office and the Shin Bet, has just completed a new instruction manual for Shin Bet interrogators. The new instructions will now be submitted for the approval of Prime Minister Rabin, who is in charge of the Shin Bet. The previous government had already started reviewing the Landau Report, and the present committee only completed the work of the previous committee, which included Ministers Arens, Meridor, and Milo.

What are the new instructions? First, the expression moderate physical pressure will no longer appear. It will be replaced by precise regulations regarding what is permissible and what is prohibited or, to put it in other words, the degree of pressure that can be used during interrogations.

One very important issue addressed in the new instruction manual is the issue of immunity for interrogators of suspects who accidentally die during interrogation. This immunity will be made conditional on their having adhered to the regulations. In such cases, the state will grant them immunity from criminal charges. Interrogators who deviate from the regulations, however, will be tried.

The new manual includes regulations meant to safeguard the health of the suspects in order to prevent deaths before or during the interrogation. The regulations also deal with the duration of the interrogations and the length of time detainees may be held in closed detention centers.

The need to revise the regulations stemmed from the great number of accidents during interrogations, which resulted in Shin Bet interrogators being put on trial. The conclusions reached by Justice Ministry committees and reports by the Shin Bet comptroller and the state comptroller were submitted to the special ministerial committee that formulated the new regulations. The new regulations will now be submitted for the prime minister's approval, after which the state will inform the Supreme Court of the new regulations.

The Supreme Court is now reviewing an appeal by the committee against torture, made approximately three years ago, in which the committee demanded that the secret clause in the Landau Report be made public and that the use of moderate physical pressure be prohibited. The state will now declare that the term moderate physical pressure no longer exists and that there are new regulations governing interrogators' behavior.

Prime Minister Meets With U.S. Senators

JN0902150793 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received at his office today U.S. Congressmen Arlen Specter, Hank Brown, and James Jeffords, who are making a tour of the Middle East region.

During the meeting, discussions dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East, particularly the expulsion of the 400 Palestinians to south Lebanon, which was an obstacle to the resumption of the peace process.

The prime minister asserted that [UN] Resolution 799 regarding the expelled Palestinians should be implemented, and the expellees should return home. He also said United Nations resolutions should be respected and one standard should be applied when implementing UN resolutions. Bilateral relations were also discussed.

The prime minister said Jordan hopes the United States would play an effective role vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue and take into consideration legitimate Arab aspirations for a world ruled by justice, stability, and peace.

The meeting was attended by the foreign minister, the minister of state for the Prime Ministry affairs, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

U.S., Israel Want Arabs To Boycott Peace Talks

JN1002101193 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Feb 93 pp 1

[Editorial: "Who is Aborting the Peace Process?"]

[Text] Israeli Health Minister Hayim Ramon stressed yesterday that Israel will not make further concessions regarding the deportees, and that there is an understanding between Israel and the U.S. Administration on this. This indicates Israel's continuous defiance of Resolution 799, and, at the same time, Washington's blessing of this defiance. This clearly suggests that Tel Aviv and Washington are in agreement on this issue and on claiming that the Israeli-U.S. deal represents an Israeli concession, so no new concessions should be requested from Israel.

It can be concluded, therefore, that Tel Aviv and Washington have decided to push the Arabs toward boycotting the new round of Arab-Israeli bilateral peace negotiations, and to demonstrate the Arabs as the party responsible for obstructing the peace process. Thus, Israel will be able to wash its hands of this process, even if temporarily, and devote itself to the genocide it is practicing in the occupied territories. The U.S. Administration will also devote itself, even if temporarily, to deal with its domestic problems without being accused of abandoning the peace process. Ramon's statements, therefore, seem to be a negative signal that it is difficult to ignore, especially since they were made only a few days prior to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region. Christopher's visit is the first high-level contact between the Clinton administration and the Arab parties to the negotiations with Israel.

There is no need to emphasize that unless Washington changes its negative position on the deportees issue, the problem will surely overshadow the meetings that Christopher will have in the Arab capitals he will visit, and will have an adverse effect on these meetings. In all cases, it should be stressed that Washington will not be able to evade the responsibilities it shoulders if it continues to use the deportees issue to pressure the Arabs into aborting the peace process. This suspicious attempt is now clear in this region and elsewhere in the world.

It should be stressed that the Arabs are eager to deal with the U.S. secretary of state during his upcoming visit, but this does not mean that they are prepared to bow to any pressures he might bring to bear on them, or accept the U.S. policy of double-standards, which exempts Israel from heeding international resolutions, and at the same time adopts an excessively hard-line position when it comes to the implementation of an international resolution by any Arab party.

Interior Ministry Licenses Fifth Leftist Party

JN1002072593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Feb 93 pp 1, 5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Amman—The Ministry of Interior Tuesday licensed the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party (JDPUB), bringing to 12 [as published] the number of political parties so far legalised by the government. The party's first secretary general, 'Azmi al- Khawaja, voiced appreciation to the government of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd and a ministerial committee formed to discuss requests by left-wing parties to officially form such parties for their encouraging response.

Mr. al-Khawaja told a press conference that the party had sent an explanatory note about a number of issues touching upon the party's relation with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

The note said that party maintains a "struggle and coordination link" with the Damascus-based PFLP and stressed that it seeks to avoid duplication of membership in the two parties.

The note also said that the JDPUP would be financed through contributions from members and donations, in addition to revenues coming from economic projects run by the party.

Commenting on reports that the authorities had found firearms with founding members of the party, the note said the party was committed to "political and intellectual struggle" and that "such a struggle" does not imply the use of firearms."

"We are against the use of firearms," Mr. al-Kawaja said.

"We are happy to start a new era operating publicly after the hard years of clandestine work," he said.

Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul noted that the party pledged to obey prohibitions on links with foreign organisations. Late last year, Mr. al-Subul rejected three leftist parties on grounds of foreign ties, but reversed the decision after intervention by the ministerial committee and compliance with certain prerequisites by the parties.

There are noted five licensed leftist parties, six pro-establishment groups, and the Muslim Brotherhood-dominated Islamic Action Front.

The government Monday legalised the al-Yaqazah Party, a pro-establishment faction led by deputy 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, a minister in several former governments.

Twelfth Political Party Licensed

JN0902103793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Feb 93 pp 1, 21

[By the party affairs editor]

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul yesterday issued a decision to license the al-Yaqazah [vigilance] Party. This is the 12th party to be officially licensed in accordance with the Parties Law. [passage omitted]

Establishment of Human Rights Center Decreed

JN0802174993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Excerpt] A royal decree has been issued forming a royal commission to serve as a constituent body for the establishment of a center in Amman for the study of freedom, democracy, and human rights in the Arab world, under the chairmanship of Najib al-Rashdan and with the membership of:
His excellency Salim Masa'idah
His excellency Tahir Hikmat
Her excellency Mrs. Layla Sharaf
His excellency Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din
His excellency Dr. Majid Khalifah
His excellency Salim al-Zu'bi
His excellency Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah
His excellency Dr. Mamduh al-'Abbadi
His excellency Dr. Mahmud al-Samrah
His excellency Husni 'Ayish
His excellency Dr. 'Adnan al-Bakhit
His excellency the president of the Jordanian lawyers
His excellency the president of the Jordanian journalists
His excellency 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar
His excellency Samir Habashinah
Mrs. Asma' Khadr
Mrs. Muna Shuqayr
His excellency Hani al-Dahlah

His excellency Dr. Yusuf Ghawanimah. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri on Visit to Cairo, Christopher Tour

NC1002130893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1142 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Beirut, 10 Feb (MENA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has praised President Husni Mubarak and described him as a major Arab leader who enjoys great Arab and international credibility. Time has shown that his leadership, long experience, and trusting international friendships have given Egypt a very important role in maintaining and supporting legitimate Arab rights.

In an exclusive statement to Fathi Sharif, MENA's Beirut correspondent, al-Hariri pointed out that as a major country in the Arab world and through President Mubarak's leadership, Egypt plays a basic role and is the political and strategic mainstay in consolidating Arab solidarity, coordinating Arab positions, and confronting the challenges facing the region, particularly that of establishing peace and implementing UN resolutions in Arab favor.

On the significance, timing, and goal of his visit to Cairo, al-Hariri, 48, who begins the first official visit to Cairo by a Lebanese prime minister in approximately 20 years, and by a Lebanese prime minister in the second republic since the al-Ta'if Accord, al-Hariri said: We always look to Egypt to play a basic role in assisting Lebanon to liberate its territory in the south and western al-Biqa' from Israeli occupation through implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, which is a basic goal that Lebanon gives political priority. [passage omitted]

Responding to a question on whether Lebanon will hand President Mubarak a message for the new U.S. Administration during his visit to Washington in April, al-Hariri said that he will consult with President Mubarak over everything concerning Lebanese-U.S. ties and current views to seek a more effective U.S. role in supporting Lebanon's independence and sovereignty by ending Israeli occupation of its territory and adhering to implementing UN resolutions, especially Resolution 425.

Asked if his visit to Cairo is part of the policy of regional balance, al-Hariri said that Lebanon is not seeking to establish political axes but that it wishes to play a role within the framework of joint Arab action. He noted that the current political developments in the region, developments that have reached an extremely important and sensitive point, dictate that we coordinate with Egypt and other Arab capitals. He stressed that visiting Egypt and meeting with President Mubarak and Egyptian officials under these circumstances are at the top of Lebanon's political agenda. He said that his visit is primarily of a political nature and will focus on consultations on the peace process and its future in the region, implementation of Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 425, and developments in the Palestinian deportees issue and their repercussions on the bilateral peace talks. He noted that he will explore Egyptian views on future ties with the new U.S. Administration before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region in a few days and the impact of this on Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Asked about the doubts being cast on the success of U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's mission in the region following Israel's refusal to take back the deportees and its impact on the peace process, al-Hariri said: We cannot make a final assessment of the U.S. position before listening to Christopher's views during his talks in the Arab capitals. He added that the United States is well aware of Lebanon and the Arab countries' position on the deportees issue and on the peace process and our adherence to achieving peace within the framework of international law. He noted that the Arab capitals are waiting to hear Christopher's views on President Clinton administration's plans and course, its views on the peace process, and whether he will bring with him the necessary assertions and assurance that will determine the credibility of U.S. policy in the region. He said: After we learn the U.S. views we will define our position, which is firm and clear.

In response to a question on whether Christopher's tour will include Beirut, al-Hariri said that he has no official information on this. He did not rule out the possibility of visiting the United States this year and meeting with President Clinton and his administration's officials, but noted that no agreement has yet been reached on such a visit. He stressed that contacts through diplomatic channels between Beirut and Washington continue to establish its positions and views and to consult over numerous issues concerning Lebanon, particularly implementation of Resolution 425, pressuring Israel to withdraw from Lebanese territory, and solving the deportees issue through implementation of Resolution 799.

Al-Hariri announced that Lebanon is adhering to its firm position on the Palestinian deportees issue and rejects any partial or temporary solutions and believes that implementing the relevant UN Security Council resolution is the necessary and only solution to the deportees' tragic plight. He reiterated his stand that Israel alone bears responsibility for this tragedy and that Lebanon looks on the issue as primarily a political one.

He added that international legality should be the arbiter among countries, not the whims of judges, remarking: If we leave the world's crises to such whims, chaos and war will prevail worldwide and the calls to peace we respond to will collapse.

Asked what future Arab steps he expects to see in case the U.S. secretary of state's Middle East mission fails, he said the Arab leaders will make a concerted assessment of the results of the U.S. secretary of state's regional tour and its expected influence on future political and security conditions in the region. Al-Hariri warned of possible adverse effects on the peace process, stressing that solving the deportees issue has become necessary to boost this process.

Al-Hariri told MENA that Lebanon is willing to sign any peace agreement [ittifaqiyah] with Israel that is based on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 even if there is no progress in the other Arab parties' negotiations toward implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338. He added: We urge U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration to show understanding of the position Lebanon has adopted ever since it began bilateral talks with Israel and not link the issue of Israel's occupation in Lebanon to the Middle East issue.

Al-Hariri added: Lebanon joined the peace negotiations at the Madrid conference on the basis of implementing Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's unconditional withdrawal to the international border. Therefore we cannot accept linkage, wait until Resolutions 242 and 338 are implemented, or even wait until there is progress in the other Arab parties' talks with Israel.

Al-Hariri denied that an agreement with Israel will constitute a separate peace, saying that implementing Resolution 425 does not involve signing a peace treaty [ittifaq sulh] with Israel while agreement on implementing Resolutions 242 and 338 would be regarded as such.

Al-Hariri praised the Arab League's role and the support Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has shown for Lebanon's stance on the Palestinian deportees. He denied that there is a crisis between Lebanon and the Arab League as a result of the postponement of 'Abd-al-Majid's visit to the deportees camp in Marj al-Zuhur. He announced that Lebanon welcomes a visit by 'Abd-al-Majid at any time but as to his making a visit to the deportees, this depends on circumstances.

Al-Hariri pointed out that he will meet with the Arab League secretary general in Cairo to discuss Lebanese issues, developments in the deportees issue, and the future of the regional peace process. [passage omitted]

U.S. Asked To Reconfirm Peace Conference Guarantees

NC1002141893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The parliamentary foreign affairs committee, which met in the presence of Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, has called on the two cosponsors of the peace conference to reconfirm the guarantees listed in the invitation to the conference. It supported the Lebanese Foreign Ministry's stand on the need for full implementation of Security Council Resolution 799. It also supported Buwayz's stand on only meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Lebanese territory.

The committee approved a bill permitting the government to conclude a loan agreement with the Islamic Development Bank.

Official Says $1 Billion Secured for Reconstruction

NC0802201893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] At a news conference at the Lebanese Embassy in Abu Dhabi, Butrus Labaki, deputy chairman of the Development and Reconstruction Board, stated that Lebanon has secured over $1 billion for reconstruction projects from Arab and international financing agencies. He added that Lebanon is currently negotiating to secure another $1 billion.

He said the board has prepared a five-year plan, estimated at $4.44 billion. The five-year plan includes an urgent three-year plan. He explained that the World Bank has promised $175 million of a $1.5 billion plan to rehabilitate one area [mintaqah munfasilah].

Labaki stressed that Lebanon will not depend completely on loans. The Lebanese Government is expecting contributions from Lebanese expatriates, whose funds abroad are estimated at $15 to $40 billion.

He said initial estimates of civil war damages is estimated between $6 and $12 billion.

Statistics Published on Government Achievements

NC1002090793 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 8 Feb 93 p 8

[Text] The following are preliminary figures showing the achievements of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's government:

Expenditures were reduced from 190 billion pounds in January 1992 to 180 billion in January 1993.

Imports increased from 45 billion pounds in January 1992 to 108 billion pounds in January 1993.

The price of 37 commodities went down by 38 percent, and the national currency improved by 35 percent since the al-Hariri government took over.

The balance of payments has for the first time registered a big surplus in favor of the Lebanese treasury.

Egypt's Mubarak Concludes Talks With al-Asad

Mubarak Views Discussions

NC0902163893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus, 9 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today said he is visiting Damascus to discuss the general Arab situation, particularly the Palestinian deportees and the upcoming phase of the peace process. Arab-Israeli bilateral and multilateral negotiations will be discussed during the talks, the president told the chief editors of Egyptian newspapers who accompanied him to Damascus.

President Mubarak said that he and President Hafiz al-Asad will also discuss the outcome of recent Egyptian exchanges with the new U.S. Administration. President Mubarak said that he and al-Asad will have a wide-ranging discussion of the current situation in light of recent developments.

Answering a question, Mubarak said no date has been set for the meeting of the finance and economy ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries. He added that the meeting has been postponed twice so far, the second time upon a request from Qatar, the host country.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa commented on the issue, saying that we can now reiterate that the Damascus Declaration is stumbling [yatarannah] again.

Discussing the reasons for his sudden visit to Damascus, President Mubarak said it was not the result of a sudden decision but came about following exchanges, adding that a calm assessment of the situation indicated that a quick visit was needed.

The president said he is eager to carry out this visit and other forms of intensive activity before the start of the blessed month of Ramadan.

Mubarak was asked about the message he received from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn via Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. His excellency said that Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] conveyed a message from the Iraqi president in which the latter called for the reopening of dialogue and explained his reasons for the invasion and the war during the crisis.

President Mubarak added that Abu-'Ammar also pointed out that Saddam was touched [ta'aththara] by what his excellency mentioned about the need for the Iraqi president to abdicate power for the sake of Iraq and the Iraqi people.

President Mubarak said, in fact, that King Husayn was the first to call on the Iraqi president to step down to save his people. He added that he had heard this from Abu-'Ammar, noting that he merely listened to what Abu-'Ammar said.

Asked about the role Abu-'Ammar is playing, President Mubarak said Abu-'Ammar is trying to open a door between Cairo and Baghdad and restore relations between some states and the Gulf states, relations that soured during the Gulf crisis.

Mubarak also disclosed that he has received several direct and indirect messages from Baghdad indicating that Iraq wants to improve its relations with the West and restore good relations with Egypt. He said such messages arrive constantly. I receive them, listen to them, contemplate them, discuss them, and evaluate them without haste and in view of Egyptian interests.

President Mubarak said experience dictates that we not take these matters lightly but subject them to deep and sound thinking. He said this quiet thinking spares Egypt from getting involved in any hasty action that might harm its interests. This has actually happened in the past; therefore, it is our permanent policy.

The president explained in detail the overall situation and current relations, currents, and tactics in ties with Sudan. He said we deal with all these issues with great wisdom and deep analysis, especially because we are being offered many things. [Sudanese leader] Lieutenant General al-Bashir is offering us unity. Such matters cannot be taken lightly or easily.

President Mubarak also discussed his and Egypt's role in cementing Arab ranks and achieving Arab reconciliation. He said Egypt is always prepared to play this active role, provided the two sides are ready for a settlement and ask him to intercede, as happened in the recent dispute between Saudi Arabia and Qatar. He added: I remember when the crisis escalated between Saudi Arabia and Qatar, Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman said no one could resolve the dispute but President Mubarak.

President Mubarak explained that Egypt deals with everyone with an open heart. It is capable of this activity. The world is convinced that Egypt plays a great role in the region and is worthy of it. He noted that although the Arab and international situations are very complicated, we are working constantly and incessantly to improve the situation and bring views closer.

President Mubarak discussed the domestic and security situation in Egypt, saying the security situation in Egypt is stable. We are confronting criminal, not Islamic, groups that practice terrorism against our people. We are confronting these groups firmly and decisively because there is no room for dialogue with theives donning the robe of Islam. There is no leniency with them because we cannot gamble with the nation's interests or negotiate with criminals.

President Mubarak added: I address frankly those who speak about the emergency laws. Please read the antiterrorism laws in states with deep-rooted democracy. The interior ministers in these states have the right to imprison a terrorist without sending him to court and without prior permission from the prosecutor. These states deal with terrorists without trials or courts.

Asked if the increase in terrorism in Egypt is a result of a mistake made during President al-Sadat's era, when Islamic groups were accepted to combat communists, President Mubarak replied: I do not blame any president. Each president has his own circumstances, judgments, and advisers. I do not blame anyone, be he President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir or President Anwar al-Sadat. I do not blame former Prime Minister Mustafa al-Nahhas. All Egyptian leaders are nationalists, and each one of them made decisions relevant to the circumstances of the time and based on his own assessment.

The president was asked about the recent terrorist acts, which appear to be moving in a vicious circle. Terrorists carry out attacks only to be released a few days later to engage in more terrorism. The president answered: The Supreme Constitutional Court's ruling upholding the president's right to refer cases affecting citizens' security to military courts is final and binding on everyone.

President Mubarak said the High Military Court, through the cases it examines, can break this vicious circle and stop this phenomenon.

The president said he has no sensitivities toward any political or partisan force in the country, except for those who back extremism and encourage terrorism.

He said he is in constant touch with party leaders, such as Fu'ad Siraj al-Din, Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, and others. He said he is also in touch with every experienced and knowledgeable Egyptian. The president explained that any decision on any subject is first examined thoroughly by all knowledgeable and concerned people. The matter is then referred to technical experts for a full study before it is forwarded to the president for a decision.

President Mubarak said this method spares him the emergence of centers of power that may try to corner him.

I am always in touch with intellectuals, President Mubarak said. Life has taught me not to make hasty decisions and to study all issues that concern the homeland honestly and carefully, he added.

Al-Asad, Mubarak News Conference

JN0902203393 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Feb 93

[News conference by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak with unidentified reporters at the conclusion of their talks in Damascus on 9 February—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Asad] As a matter of fact, we discussed a host of issues that concern our two countries. It goes without saying that what concerns the two countries always concerns the Arab nation. We have discussed some of the issues that concern the Gulf region. We also touched on issues that could be presumed to affect the peace process. Similarly, we touched on international issues. Of course, each and every topic discussed had its own various and numerous subdivisions. These are the topics we discussed. Of course, we did not discuss bilateral ties, because there is nothing to discuss in this regard. We believe that bilateral ties have reached an advanced level, and this is how they should be.

[Reporter] President Husni Mubarak visited Your Excellency in Damascus three or four weeks ago. What are the developments which could have materialized in the aftermath of that visit?

[Mubarak interrupts al-Asad, with both presidents laughing] He asked me that same question before.

[Al-Asad] As far as major issues are concerned, new and spectacular developments pertaining to them might not have taken place during the interval between the two visits. However, issues have their own elaborate details and developments, which could take place, sometimes on a daily basis. Our bilateral cooperation, relations, and coordination sometimes address details; this is one of the things we have done.

[Reporter] With respect to the Damascus Declaration, has anything new materialized, particularly as there have been contacts in this regard? Shaykh al-Sabah [Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister] visited Damascus. Moreover, the Saudi crown prince visited both Syria and Egypt. Has anything pertaining to the Damascus Declaration been discussed, especially as statements were made to the effect that it has become a thing of the past?

[Al-Asad] We discussed the Damascus Declaration in light of what we heard from our brothers in the Gulf. An Egyptian official, as well as a Syrian official, were reported to have said that the Declaration has stumbled or even died. Our brothers in the Gulf adhere to the Declaration. As we said in a previous meeting with you, we support our brothers in the Gulf. If they see that their interests can be promoted by adhering to this declaration, we will stick to it. In the same vein, if they find that their interests cannot be promoted by this Declaration, we will not show a strong determination to adhere to it. As a matter of course, we believe that Arab interests can be promoted by adherence to this Declaration. Otherwise, this Declaration would not have come into being in the first place. During the past few days, we have been informed by some brothers that they adhere to the Damascus Declaration. We support this adherence.

[Reporter] I have a question about the deportees. Do you think there is a chance UN Security Council Resolution 799 will be implemented before the peace process begins again?

[Mubarak] President Hafiz al-Asad and I discussed this issue, as it is a topical one right now. We are in constant contact with one another about this matter. We reckon that what we have achieved thus far is a step that needs to be consolidated with additional steps. We trust that before the negotiations are relaunched we will see some kind of movement toward a resolution of the deportee issue. Therefore, I appeal to our brothers in Israel and to

peace-loving forces to help resolve this problem completely so that obstacles blocking the peace process may be removed.

[Reporter] Your Excellency President Mubarak: Suppose Israel refuses to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 799 and persists in its intransigence? What do you think will happen?

[Mubarak] We will leave it for brother Arabs to decide on the next move. However, I do not see the deportee issue dragging on for too long. We are making great efforts, and President Hafiz al-Asad knows this, and he himself is making contacts in many directions. Efforts are being made in this regard. We hope we will be able to work out a solution instead of closing doors.

[Reporter] Your Excellency President Mubarak: The Arab man on the street is confused about relations between Egypt and Sudan, in relation to Hala'ib. Is it realistic to expect to hear good news about the historic ties between the two brotherly countries?

[Mubarak] I am no less confused than you are. Hala'ib is Egyptian. Once again yesterday, he [Sudanese leader 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir] said—although I do not respond to this statements—that he will not concede a single inch of Hala'ib. I say to him: Never mind. We too will not concede a single inch of our land. I will not ask you to concede anything and you will not ask me to concede anything. The treaties are the judge between us. The Sudanese exaggerate and escalate the issue for no good reason. We agreed that a committee was to convene. It met once in March, and then we kept trying to reconvene it until October, but they kept putting it off. At last when I came to President Hafiz al-Asad and brought up the issue, I said let the committee convene. I said that Egypt had not postponed the committee meeting; the committee chairman was in the United States and he has since returned. We are ready for a meeting without preconditions.

[Reporter] Your Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad: When we were here in Damascus a month ago, the question of Syria's mediation between Egypt and Iran was brought up. Has there been any progress on this front?

[Al-Asad] We hope so. We are still quite optimistic. As I have said, the Arabs and Syria and Egypt have an interest in this, as does Iran. We hope that the universal and important umbrella which has historically brought us together, namely Islam, will prove useful in reconciling conflicting views in the best interests of all parties. My brother President Husni Mubarak and I have no argument over this subject. In actual fact, we have heard brother Iranians speak positively on this matter. In any case, certain clarifications should serve to better crystallize the facts. Egypt, as a key Arab, Islamic nation—indeed, the largest Arab state—has its own viewpoint in this respect. I would think it not impossible to work out solutions to everything. We have heard continually-....[pauses] Of course, President Mubarak told you after our previous meeting—and he has reiterated it many times since—Egypt welcomes a balanced, good relationship, provided there is no interference in its internal affairs. This much we have also heard from the Iranians. But certain measures and steps must be taken and details worked out to remove the underlying causes of misunderstandings between the two countries.

[Reporter] Your Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad: Egypt is not the only country that complained about Iran's interference in its internal affairs. In a new development, Turkey officially accused Iran of plotting against and murdering Turkish figures.

[Al-Asad] In fact, I did not follow this development, but according to what I read in the newspapers, Iran is denying this charge too. We cannot necessarily say that one is telling the truth and the other is lying. We are not in a position to be the judge here.

[Reporter] President Mubarak: The Arab affairs, about which His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has talked, dictated this meeting, the second of its kind in a short span of time. Can you highlight, once again, the most prominent topics you discussed during this summit?

[Mubarak] Can I say anything more than what brother President Hafiz al-Asad already said? He told you: All issues; the peace process, the deportees, international issues, and Iran—which we touched upon, as President Hafiz has said. These are all hot issues.

[Reporter] Mr. President: What do you expect of Secretary Christopher's upcoming tour of the region?

[Mubarak] We wish for the best. We are waiting to see him. This will be the first time I meet with him. So I cannot tell you my expectations before I see him.

[Reporter] Was this among the major topics discussed in your talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

[Mubarak] There were many issues. There were many side issues discussed as well. We cannot talk about everything because we are in agreement on the broad lines of the issues that concern us and which do not need any interpretation. We are waiting to see what new things the U.S. secretary of state will bring with him.

[Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic at 1832 GMT on 9 February also carries a recording of the news conference held by Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak. The Damascus TV version at this point adds the following:

["[Reporter] Mr. President: It has been a long time since Damascus received Yasir 'Arafat, especially since there are many common, and indeed complicated, issues. What are the reasons behind this?

["[Al-Asad] President Husni Mubarak is a brother and friend, and he is in charge [laughter] of this task.

["[Mubarak] President Yasir 'Arafat was with us recently, as you know. He relayed a message to me from outside. He came because we are helping with the peace process.

["[Al-Asad, laughing] At any rate...

["[Reporter, interrupting] President Mubarak?

["[Mubarak] I mean from outside Egypt. [laughter]

["[Reporter] President Saddam Husayn is trying to open new Arab doors. How far can Damascus go in responding to that ambition?

["[Al-Asad] At any rate, I have no information apart from the message which President Mubarak has just mentioned.

["[Reporter] What does Your Excellency think?

["[Al-Asad] I have no information about his attempt to open Arab doors, apart from the subject of this message. Do you have any other information?

["[Reporter] We wish to ask Your Excellency what you think about the message. [laughter]

["[Al-Asad] At any rate, is it not better to ask this of President Mubarak?

["[Mubarak] I have said all I can. We hope that harmony, amity, and genuine cooperation will prevail in our Arab nation. Differences have to be eliminated and intentions must be sincere. Otherwise, there can never be harmony in the Arab nation. He who has sincere intentions, and does not believe in intervention in others' domestic affairs, will find a positive response. There are many points which have to be put on the table and which we Arabs must understand to have harmony in the world of today, the world of major groupings.

["[Al-Asad] Arab relations must be viewed from a strategic, not a tactical perspective.

["[Reporter] Mr. President: The relationship between Egypt and Syria have reached a good, or an excellent level—I am only emphasizing the president's statement. Is it possible to add further Arab sides to these two parties?

["[Al-Asad] We have not discussed that. But I believe if this issue is raised, and if we see seriousness, we will welcome such a development. Also, if we see a suitable opportunity to achieve that, we must seize that opportunity. But, so far we do not have anything new."]

Mubarak Departs

JN0902173993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Damascus at 1330 today. He was received at Damascus international airport by President Hafiz al-Asad, accompanied by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

After the reception ceremony, the two presidents held a meeting that was attended on the Syrian side by 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Faruq al-Shar', and Syrian Ambassador in Cairo 'Isa Darwish. For Egypt, the meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying President Mubarak, which comprises Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Usamah al-Baz, director of President Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs, Presidential Office Chief Zakariya 'Azmi, and Egyptian Ambassador in Damascus Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi.

The meeting was interrupted for a working lunch hosted by his excellency the president.

Talks dealt with a host of current Arab issues, regional developments, and the peace process.

His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Damascus at 1630 today. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad led those who were on hand to see President Mubarak off at Damascus international airport. President Mubarak of Egypt was also bade farewell at the airport by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian Ambassador in Cairo 'Isa Darwish, as well as the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus accompanied by embassy staff.

Paper Hails Visit

JN1002091893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0555 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN discusses Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visit to Damascus. It says: This visit increases hopes of achieving the desired pan-Arab solidarity and reuniting Arab ranks, which are currently fragmented and in a poor state.

TISHRIN adds: Consultations between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak did not stop throughout the past eventful phase. The paper affirms that the two presidents' efforts to revive Arab solidarity did not emerge in a vacuum; they are long-standing efforts with which the two presidents tried to achieve a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and normalize the situation. After the Gulf war, Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak attempted to work out a new formula for pan-Arab solidarity; hence, the Damascus Declaration came into existence.

TISHRIN continues: The solidarity demanded by Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak is a vital and crucial necessity. Arab rallying around the Syrian and Egyptian stands will enhance both the general Arab situation and the position of the Arab negotiators in the peace talks. It will also consolidate the demand for canceling the policy of double standards so that the Security Council can implement its resolutions and make Israel respect international law.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: When the Arabs regain the basic components of pan-Arab solidarity, then all differences will end and the way will open for wide Arab-Islamic solidarity that will have a clear influence on the international community and its resolutions. As the two presidents said in their news conference, the Arabs face a host of issues, including the deportee matter, prospects for the peace process, and the restoration of the occupied territories. It is therefore necessary to coordinate Arab stands and mobilize capabilities and resources to attain a unified Arab stance.

Al-Shar' Meets With Iranian, Turkish Counterparts

Iran's Velayati Arrives

JN0902214993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2132 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived in Damascus this evening for a visit of several days. He was received at Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the assistant foreign minister, the Syrian ambassador in Tehran, the Iranian ambassador in Damascus, and the heads of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol and Asia Departments.

Velayati made a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he said: I am carrying a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added: The visit falls within the framework of the constant meetings and consultations with the brothers in Syria. I will meet with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and attend the tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Syria, Iran, and Turkey. This meeting will be the third of its kind, and will address the regional situation, especially with regard to the situation on the Iraqi scene, and will underline our adherence to Iraq's unity.

Asked if there is an Iranian working paper, Velayati said: Naturally, there are plans and they will be raised during the meeting.

Turkey's Cetin Comments

JN1002105793 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1010 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus, 10 Feb (SANA)—Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Ankara, the Turkish ambasador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

In a statement to journalists, Cetin expressed pleasure at visiting Syria, the sisterly neighbor country. He said that it is very useful to hold contacts among the three countries in the region—Turkey, Syria, and Iran—which have important political influence in the region in order to discuss new developments.

Cetin added: At Turkey's invitation, the foreign ministers of the three countries held a very useful meeting in Ankara last November. We discussed the important developments in the region and ways to deal with them. We mainly discussed the situation in Iraq and underscored the unity and safety of the people and territory of Iraq. We also stressed that this unity is important for regional and world stability.

Cetin said: At the invitation of Syria's Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', we came to Damascus today to continue the discussion we began in Ankara, assess the new developments in the region, and exchange opinions on these developments.

Asked if the conferees in the Damascus meeting will discuss ways to help the Iraqi opposition parties, Cetin said: We will discuss all developments and exchange views on them.

Asked about establishing a state in northern Iraq, Cetin said: Our position is very clear, and there is no contradiction between the Turkish and Syrian views in this regard. We do not seek the partitioning of Iraqi territory because this would add another problem to those from which the region is suffering. We hope the Iraqi regime will show similar concern for such developments.

First Meeting Held

JN1002113493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus—A tripartite meeting was held in Damascus today between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin. The meeting was attended by the delegtions of the three countries.

The conferees will discuss the situation in the region and developments in northern Iraq.

This meeting is a continuation of the meeting held in Ankara last November.

Lebanon's al-Hariri Arrives, Meets al-Zu'bi

JN1002104393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri arrived in Damascus at 1045 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi led those who received al-Hariri at Damascus international airport. [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi and al-Hariri held a meeting at the Prime Ministry attended by Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for service affairs. The meeting discussed issues relating to the fraternal bilateral cooperation and ways of fostering and developing it in all fields.

Prime Minister Returns From Meetings in Libya

JN0902180193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his accompanying delegation returned to Damascus this evening after a four-day visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, during which he headed the Syrian Arab side to meetings of the Higher Joint Syrian-Libyan Committee.

The prime minister and his delegation were seen off in Tripoli this morning by 'Umar Abu-Zayd Durdah, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, secretaries of the General People's Committee, the Syrian charge d'affaires in Tripoli, and the secretary of the Libyan liaison bureau in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Pakistani General To Help Mediate Cease-Fire

BK1002140493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1344 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Feb 10 (AFP)—A former Pakistan military intelligence chief is in Kabul to help mediate a ceasefire between the government and rebel faction forces, a government source stated Wednesday.

General Hamid Gul, who from 1987-89 headed Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI), which covertly trained and supplied arms to the Afghan guerrillas during their 10-year fight against the Soviet army, arrived in Kabul Tuesday.

Gul met with the chief of the National Security department Wednesday, but the talks were described as unofficial, the source said.

Shortly after the April 1992 victory of the mojahedin over the Moscow-backed Afghan communist regime, Gul arranged a meeting with rival guerrilla leaders Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Mas'ud, now minister of defence, has been battling Hekmatyar's Pashtun Hezb-e Eslami mojahedin faction for the past 23 days, in order to knock out Hezb heavy weapons units that have been firing rockets into the capital.

On Monday alone, 368 wounded were admitted to Kabul's hospitals, the highest number yet, reported Armin Kobel, chief of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Kabul.

Kabul was quiet until late afternoon Wednesday when a handful of rockets landed in the city, but in the pre-dawn morning hours three rockets exploded inside the ICRC orthopaedic centre in west Kabul, Red Cross officials said.

Diplomatic sources report Hekmatyar's conditions for a ceasefire are the resignation of President Borhanoddin Rabbani and an exchange of prisoners.

Rabbani insists that Hekmatyar must recognise his authority, and the Afghan shoora or special assembly that elected him for a two-year term.

In addition, the Defence Ministry wants Hekmatyar to surrender all his heavy weapons, either to the government or to a special committee of neutral representatives nominated by the government.

A mojahedin faction go-between who has been shuttling between Rabbani and Hekmatyar for the last four days has failed to achieve any breakthrough, diplomatic sources reported.

"The position of the two conflicting parties is far apart and unyielding. I met with no success at all," the go-between reportedly declared.

They also reported the evacuation from Kabul of the two expatriate directors of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The Federation normally works in non-conflict zones, dealing with natural disaters such as earthquakes. The ICRC has a special mandate to operate in war zones.

The 10 Red Crescent dispensaries which the Federation supplied with medical supplies will now be managed by the ICRC, said delegation chief Kobel.

Government Urges Hazaras To Oppose Rebel Forces

LD0902185993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Statement issued by the Islamic State of Afghanistan; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: The noble and persecuted mojahed nation of Afghanistan enthusiastically welcomed the collapse of the regime born of the occupation of the former Soviet Union and the victory of the Islamic revolution in their beloved country. It expected a prosperous future in the light of the rule of the values of beloved Islam. Unfortunately, Islamic-looking bands and those treacherous to Islam and the high values of faith and our beloved country, knowingly and unknowingly, resorted to rebellious measures that have been in contradiction with the eternal principles of the sacred religion of Islam and stained the honor and prestige of mojahedin and the heroic people of Afghanistan on the regional and international level.

The adventurous and rebellious faction of Golboddin, from the very first day of the victory of Islam and the establishment of the Islamic government in our country, embarked on subversion and the defamation of Islam and the Muslims. They committed actions against the Muslim people of Afghanistan—in particular the poor people of Kabul—which bring shame on infidelity [kofr] and Islam and the pen hesitates to detail.

These days again, in continuation of the previous savage and brutal missile attacks, our faithful and poor compatriots in the capital are subjected to a savage and unmanly bombardment by the adventurous faction of Golboddin which has inflicted heavy losses in life and material on the people of Kabul of the Islamic country.

The Islamic state, reflecting the will of the Muslim people of Afghanistan, has embarked upon defending the Islamic order and the people of Kabul against the rebels. It has been subjected to the most heavy attacks, the center of missile and heavy weapons attacks, by the

enemies of order and security. The eradication operations of the Ministry of Defense of the Islamic state will continue until the complete elimination of the centers of subversion and rebellion and the cleansing of Kabul's fringes of disobedient adventurers.

In these critical and destiny-making moments when the Islamic state has embarked on the path of social and political stability and the maintenance of law and order to eliminate the dark and painful clouds of war from the atmosphere of Kabul, the opportunistic and irresponsible faction of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] has joined hands with the bloodthirsty and criminal Golboddin and, thus, wants to sacrifice the blood of the poor and persecuted Hazara nationality at the hands of the filthy and unlawful aims of Golboddin.

In the past, Golboddin never refrained from any measure against the Hazara nationality. He was proud of crushing and killing Hazaras and opposed their participation in the political affairs of the country. The war of the Golboddin band against Hazaras in Ghazni and Maydan Shahr, the murder of Hazaras who were returning from Iran by individuals belonging to the Golboddin group, and pressure and harassment of the Hazaras on the Kabul-Torkham and Kabul-Miramshaha highway are indicative of this fact. During the summer and autumn clashes, thousands of missiles were fired by Golboddin commanders from the Rishkhor hills at Hazara residential areas, which inflicted loss of life and material on the Hazara people. Golboddin and his mercenary murderers often complained to the state that the government did not let them fight against the Hazaras, and they have always blamed the state leadership for siding with the Hazaras.

Under the present conditions, when Golboddin has turned into a bloodthirsty lunatic and the people hate his name, a number of rebellious and irresponsible individuals in Hezb-e Wahdat have joined the terrorist band of Golboddin. In the name of obtaining the rights of the Hazaras, they want to pit the persecuted Hazara nation against all the Muslim people. We want the people of Hazara to prevent a number of irresponsible elements in Hezb-e Wahdat, who have unfortunately joined in this destructive war, from letting the flames of war reach areas where the Hazaras live.

We announce that the legitimate and lawful rights of the Hazaras will be maintained by the Islamic state, and they will be considered its allies. The leadership of the Islamic State of Afghanistan expresses its deep sorrow at the heavy loss of life and material that has been inflicted on the people of Kabul as a result of missile attacks by the adventurist faction of Golboddin. It assures the esteemed Kabul citizens that very soon the situation at the fringes of the city will be normalized, security will be maintained, and the people will be rescued from the harm of missiles and heavy and light weapons. Political and social life, along with peace and stability in the country, will return.

Kabul Reportedly Hit by Over 200 Rockets

LD0902174093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] After a short lull, the exchange of artillery fire between the Afghan Government and opposition forces resumed in Kabul this evening.

According to our correspondent in Kabul, as of the time of his report more than 20 rockets had hit central areas of the city.

The Afghan Defense Ministry announced that Afghan Government forces have forced back opposition forces who were stationed south of Kabul. The same source says that their attack took place after yesterday's heavy shelling.

During yesterday's exchange of fire, more than 200 rockets hit the Defense Ministry building, residential areas, city center, hospital, and embassy compounds, killing 54 persons and wounding more than 100.

Turkish Embassy in Kabul To Be Evacuated

TA1002073693 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The Turkish Embassy in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, is being evacuated. A cease-fire was secured in Afghanistan through the efforts of the mediator assigned by Pakistan. Following the fierce clashes of yesterday, Kabul was mostly tranquil today.

The Turkish Embassy in Kabul decided to evacuate the building following the intensification of the clashes between opposition groups and the Afghan Administration. Many countries have already closed down their missions in Kabul because of the clashes.

Paktia Governor Killed in Mine Explosion

LD0902150193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] We have heard with sorrow that esteemed Mawlawi Nasrollah Mansur, the governor of Paktia, was martyred today by the rebellious group of Golboddin and the enemies of the sacred religion of Islam along the Gardiz-Zormat highway.

At around 1100 when he was traveling from Gardiz city to Zormat district, Mawlawi Mansur was martyred when a mine, which had been planted on the road by a gang of the rebellious Golboddin group, exploded. According to another report the funeral of Mawlawi Mansur will be held in Zormat tomorrow.

Criminal Investigation Chief Reported Assassinated

LD0902172093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] We have received a report from Kabul which says that Mas'ud Hasham, director of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Afghan Interior Ministry, has been assassinated in the Halvar Koshteh district of Kabul. Details of the assassination are not yet clear.

Clandestine Reports Attacks on Heavy Weapons

LD0902165493 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The courageous mojahedin directed attacks against heavy weapons emplacements belonging to the coalition administration in District 8 in Qargha, according to a responsible military source of the Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan speaking to a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent.

The report adds that the coalition forces attacked residential areas in Kabul City with heavy weapons from Qargha [word indistinct]. As a result of this a large number of innocent compatriots were killed or injured during the days of war. A large number of people have left their homes.

As a result of heavy weapons fire by the mojahedin the heavy weapons positions of the coalition administration were destroyed and [words indistinct] positions were set on fire. The flames could be seen (?far away).

As a result of heavy weapons fire by the mojahedin against the Military Academy [east of the city] two weapons stores belonging to the coalition forces were set on fire.

According to a responsible source of Kabul City eastern command, speaking to a correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom, as a result of heavy weapons fire by the mojahedin yesterday afternoon two weapons stores of the coalition forces in the Military Academy were set on fire.

Reports say that the mojahedin are successfully advancing east of Kabul and continue attacking the military centers of the coalition administration.

Demonstrations Said Held Against Coalition Policy

LD0902161993 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Widespread demonstrations were held in various parts of the city against the warmongering policy of the coalition administration again last night.

A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reported from Kabul city that after evening prayers yesterday evening, the persecuted citizens of Kabul city again held wide demonstrations against the warmongering policy of the coalition administration. The report states that last evening, residents of various parts in Khayrkhana Mena, shouting "God is great," "Long live Islam," "Death to Rabbani," and "Death to Mas'ud," condemned the warmongering efforts by the coalition administration.

Residents in [name indistinct] and the Gozargah areas also held demonstrations after evening prayers last evening, condemning the shelling of residential areas by the coalition administration.

Reports say that in both these areas the demonstrators, in addition to strongly condemning the warmongering and blood-letting policies of the coalition administration, demanded that the partners in the coalition administration surrender power to an Islamic government acceptable to the people.

The coalition administration is using heavy weapons fire on all the regions which are being freed from their clutches in battle. This causes the death and injury of defenseless civilians and the destruction of homes.

Bangladesh

One Reported Killed in Nationwide Strike

BK1002103493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] In Bangladesh, normal life was affected due to an eight-hour bundh [strike] from 0600 hours this morning. The call for the nationwide bundh was given by the main opposition Awami League to protest against what it described as the manipulation of the results of Mirpur parliamentary by-elections held earlier this month. Shops and bazaars and educational institutions are closed and vehicles off the road. A six-hour bundh was observed in Dhaka city on Saturday on the same issue.

The prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, has accused the Awami League of trying to disrupt the development process by resorting to frequent bundh calls.

Awami League sources claimed that one of their party workers was killed and eight others injured when some gunmen opened fire near the party office.

A delayed report from Bangladesh says that about 40 houses including shops and restaurants were destroyed following violent clashes between two groups of people at Joypara village in Dhaka District on Monday. The chairman of the Bangladesh Human Rights Commission, Mr. Justice K.M. Sobhan, who visited the village said the police did not take any action to stop the violence. The property damaged in the violence belonged to the minorities.

Activists Injured in Clashes

BK1002115693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1141 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Excerpts] Dhaka, Feb 10 (AFP)—Bangladesh's main opposition Awami League claimed on Wednesday that at least one of its supporters had been shot dead in Dhaka in an attack on its office and some 50 injured by ruling party rivals during a nationwide strike it had called.

"BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) activists attacked the office at least seven times and fired indiscriminately," Mohiuddin Ahmed, a senior Awami League (AL) leader said.

He said at least one AL supporter was killed and some 20 injured.

More than 30 others were injured in sporadic clashes in Dhaka during the general strike called by the AL, led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed, to protest the result of a by-election a week ago in a key constituency in the Bangladeshi capital. [passage omitted]

Ahmed said the attackers arrived in mini-buses, and were armed with guns and bombs, some of which were set off around the AL office entrance. He said they took away the body of the person killed, a 29-year-old named as Jahangir.

Witnesses said attackers lobbed small bombs and fired at strikers.

Police fired tear gas and charged the strikers with batons.

"I don't know who was shooting or if anybody had died, but several were injured," a policeman said.

When contacted, a BNP official denied party activists were involved in the attack and had no information of the alleged death, "only sporadic minor clashes."

Normalcy slowly returned to Dhaka and shops and offices cautiously opened for business as the strike, during which security was tight, ended at 2:00 p.m. (0700 GMT). Elsewhere, the stoppage reportedly passed peacefully.

Zia lashed out against the strike, saying peace and order were needed for the welfare of the country.

"Frequent strikes disrupt the development process," Zia said.

"Those who give such strike calls do not want development and progress of the country," the private UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH quoted her as saying at a rally in southwestern Khulna district on Tuesday.

The by-election was seen by the two sides as their first test since the 1991 general elections which brought Zia to power.

AL activists also fought with police as well as rivals in sporadic clashes in Dhaka.

Sources at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital said 12 people were being treated for bullet wounds and more were on the way. They said some had already been released after treatment.

Opposition sources said an unspecified number of supporters were arrested, but police said they could not yet confirm whether arrests had been made.

Offices, schools and shops were shuttered. Pedicabs were the only mode of transport. Some buses and taxis, backed by allegedly anti-strike elements, attempted to run, but quickly disappeared when they were attacked.

National flag carrier Biman and other airlines maintained normal international flights, but with some delays. Railway officials said trains ran uninterrupted.

India

Spanish Prime Minister Concludes Visit

Offers Help on Terrorism

BK0902131093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The Spanish prime minister, Mr. Felipe Gonzalez, has offered his unstinted support to India in its fight against terrorism. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, he said Spain is prepared to support India in any international fora on this issue. Answering wide-ranging questions, Mr. Gonzalez said the opening up of both countries' economy has thrown open opportunities for cooperation in a number of fields from capital goods to tourism. He said the business delegation which accompanied him had already discussions with the Indian counterparts and next meeting between them is planned for May in Madrid. He hoped that the interaction will increase trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Replying to a question, he said there has to be a balanced reform of the United Nations while widening the representation in the Security Council. He was emphatic that the problem of the Gibraltar can be solved if it does not affect the territorial integrity of Spain. Mr. Gonzalez said India has an important role to play in international affairs and hoped his visit will strengthen bilateral ties substantially.

Investment Opportunities Viewed

BK0902162693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Spain today offered to invest in various fields in India. The matter came up for discussion when the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, called on the visiting Spanish prime minister, Mr. Felipe Gonzalez, in New Delhi today. Both agreed that India's economic reforms have created a good environment for foreign

investment and the areas for investment will be identified. The potential for cooperation in fisheries and tourism were underlined by both sides.

The Spanish prime minister had a meeting with Indian industrialists in New Delhi today. He asked them to take advantage of Spain as a gateway to the European Community and also to North Africa. He said the liberalization program of the Indian Government is being keenly watched by the Spanish industrialists and expressed the hope that the new policies will be fruitful. He suggested that fishing, food processing, tourism, capital goods, and power sectors can be ideal to start collaborative ventures. Mr. Gonzalez said the proposal to set up a Spanish bank in India will facilitate better trade relations. Welcoming the visiting diginatary to the meeting, the president of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Krantikumar Poddar, said that the two countries should make effort to increase the volume of trade by twofold to $500 million in the next two years.

Gonzalez Departs

BK1002080693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The Spanish prime minister, Mr. Felipe Gonzalez, has said that though this is his first visit to India, the outcome of it is very positive. He was speaking at the ceremonial departure ceremony at Rashtrapati Bahavan [President's House] this morning. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said that a very good beginning has been made and both the countries will continue to work closely in future also.

Later, Mr. Gonzalez was seen off by the prime minister and his Cabinet colleagues after being given a guard of honor.

Russian Minister Assures Supply of Cryogenic Technology

BK1002072293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Russia has reiterated its commitment to supply the cryogenic rocket technology to India despite objections by the United States. The visiting Russian minister for science and technology, Mr. Saltykov, said that it is now for the technical experts of both the countries to work out the modalities. The assurance was given during his discussions with his Indian counterpart, Mr. P.R. Kumaramangalam, in New Delhi today. Both the ministers reviewed the Indo-Russian program of cooperation in science and technology. Mr. Kumaramangalam urged Mr. Saltykov to pursue flexible credit terms for setting up two atomic power plants at Koodankulam in Tamil Nadu.

Commentary Views Features of Medium-Range Missile

BK0902122793 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Commentary by Gian Singh]

[Text] When Prithvi [Earth], India's own medium-range surface-to-surface missile, was once again successfully test fired on Sunday from the Chandipur on sea interim test range in Orissa, it is more than one step forward in the country's 8 billion-rupee integrated guided missile development program. It is reaffirmation of India's resolve to achieve self-reliance in this crucial area in the frontiers of sophisticated multidiscipline technology for, it is a fact of life that imposition of the informal missile technology control regime by the most advanced countries has put clamps in the rapid growth outside the leading space club members, especially on the developing ones. An example is the difficulty that India has been facing in procuring cryogenic engines from the Russian space agency, Glavkosmos, contracted in early 1991. The U.S. pressure is believed to be the impediment which President Yeltsin had during his recent Indian visit promised once again to resist.

Prithvi, now under production at the public sector Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderbad, is a modified version of the indigenous satellite launch vehicle, SLV-3. It is a liquid propellent based quick reaction missile designed to deploy command structures as well as disorient formations of tanks in war. It has two versions: one, SS-150 with a range between 40 and 150 km upto 1,000 kgs; two, SS- 250 with a maximum range of 250 kms has a warhead upto 500 kgs. Developed by Defense Research and Development Department, DRDO, under the leadership of India's rocketry wizard A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Sunday was Prithvi's fourth test firing from the interim test range and 10th in the series. The first test was conducted on 22 February 1988 from the Rocket Launching Center at Sriharikotta in Andhra Pradesh and the last launch was carried out on 29 August last year from Chandipur on sea. There will be more tests before the missile is cleared for operational deployment. Prithvi is one of the five missiles under various stages of development and almost all its components have been made in the country.

India's capability in the overall rocket technology received a boost in the last decade after the first successful launch of SLV-3 in 1981 with its range of 300 kms and payload of 40 kgs. In spite of the lack of international cooperation, India has already developed key elements in the technology. Included in the achievements is the indigenous development of space grade heat shield material required to protect the rocket from high temperatures. Solid boosters used for giving the rocket initial thrust have also been made in the country, but they are comparatively heavy. Liquid fuel thrusters burn more efficiently and also enable manueverability. These were initially (?bagged) from the French, but were also since been indigenized. Similarly, autopilot for precision guidance has also been partially developed and so have been the strap on systems which give greater thrust on the first stage.

Initial launches of Prithvi were from a pad separated from the control center, but the last three firings, including Sunday's, were from a mobile launcher,

improved version of a Belgian truck manufactured under license at Bharat Earth Movers, Bangalore. The onboard computer systems of a missile's specialized devices like accelerometers and gyroscope to keep it on course to the predetermined target have also been developed in India. However, what Prithvi does not have at present is the mechanism to guide it at the end of the journey and has a circular error probability of about 100 meters. When produced for operational use, Prithvi will cost around 18 million rupees each which is profitable to the price of a similar class missile available abroad.

The Defense Ministry proposes to invest over 2 billion rupees to set up large production facilities at the Hyderabad factory. Simultaneous with Prithvi, the production of another quick reaction surface-to-surface missile Trishul [Trident] will also begin. While Prithvi is mainly for deployment by the Army as a tactical and strategic weapon, Trishul will be used by all the three wings of the armed forces. After these missiles are integrated into the defense setup, it is estimated that it will take less than two minutes to fire one after another.

Launched in 1983, the integrated missile development program involves 21 laboratories of DRDO, 10 universities, and Indian Institutes of Technology. The earnestness and dynamism with which this program is being conducted reflect India's determination to live up to its defense commitments—sanctions or no santions. China and Pakistan have already deployed missiles of this class. Hence the critical importance of Prithvi.

Congress-I Committee Meeting Passes Resolution

BK0902161093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] session will be held at Faridabad in Haryana on the 27th and 28th of next month. This was announced after the meeting of the Congress-I Working Committee [CWC] in New Delhi this evening. The working committee, which met for the last two days, also unanimously decided that the one-man one-post priciple will not apply to the Congress-I president. The members discussed a paper on strategies to fight communal forces and a supplementary action plan. The plan is to be finalized in a day or two.

Briefing newsmen, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said the political resolution was proposed by Mr. Sharad Pawar and Mr. N.D. Tiwari and was supported by Mr. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy and Mr. K. Karunakaran. The resolution has called upon all congressmen to fight the menace of communalism with the same spirit that inspired the Congress organization during the freedom struggle. It says that the congressemen at all levels should work unitedly and with confidence by participating actively in the program formulated by the CWC under the leadership of Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao and repel the menace posed by the fundamentalist and communal forces in the country. Squarely blaming the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and its allies for the happenings in Ayodhya and the recurrence of communal violence in Bombay, Ahmedabad, Surat, and other cities, the resolution said this has created distrust and a sense of insecurity among the communities. Condemning the conspiracy of this organization, the working committee urged the people to face the danger before the nation.

In his concluding remarks, the party president, Mr. Narasimha Rao stressed the need for strong discipline and unity in the party to fight the menace of communalism.

Besides the political resolution, six other resolutions were unanimously approved by the working committee. One resolution urged the government to consider what suitable changes can be effected in the electoral law to curb the misuse of religion in the country's electoral process. In another resolution, the CWC noted with regret the tendency to rush to the media resulting in an unhealthy atmosphere in the party's projection and consequent harm to the interest of the party. Disapproving of this practice, the resolution calls for enforcement of discipline and for an effective functioning of the disciplinary action committee. It says while inner-party democracy should be utilized to discuss matters threadbare, controversial public projection should be avoided. It says this should be observed by all congressmen, particularly at higher level.

Further Report

BK1002050693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The Congress-I Working Committee [CWC] squarely blamed the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and its allies for the happenings in Ayodhya. In a political resolution, the working committee said the recurrence of communal violence in Bombay, Ahmedabad, Surat, and other places was because of communal passions incited by BJP, VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad, World Hindu Council], Shiv Sena, and RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh].

The committee, which met to discuss the present political situation in the country, concluded its meeting in New Delhi yesterday evening. The Congress-I Working Committee, which is the highest policy-making body for the party, also discussed the strategies to fight communalism. The committee called upon the partymen to fight this menace with the same spirit that inspired the party during the freedom struggle.

The party spokesman, Mr. Gadgil, said that an action plan to curb communalism will be finalized in a day or two and will be sent to all party units in the country for implementation. The working committee also condemned the BJP and others for denigrating the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi.

On the proposed rally by the BJP [on 25 February in Delhi to demand fresh elections], the CWC maintained that it is for the government to take a decision after assessing the law and order situation.

The working committee also announced that the AICC-I [All India Congress Comittee-I] session will be held at Faridabad in Haryana on the 27th and 28th of next month.

Congress-I Members Removed From Tamil Nadu Assembly

BK1002085493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] All Congress-I members, including the leader of the opposition, were removed from the Tamil Nadu assembly today as pandemonium broke out when the chief minister, Ms. Jayalalitha, moved a resolution urging the center to implement the assurance given by Pundit Jawaharlala Nehru that Hindi will not be imposed on the state. She alleged that Tamil programs of Doordarshan [television] have been reduced creating an impression that Hindi is being imposed in Tamil Nadu. Refuting her charges, Mr. Peter Alfonse of the Congress-I asserted that the Tamil programs have been increased by 15 minutes. This was followed by sharp exchanges between the treasury benches and the Congress-I members. Amidst noisy scenes, the speaker announced that the government resolution is passed by a voice vote. As his repeated appeals for order went unheeded, the speaker, Mr. Muthaiah, ordered the leader of the opposition, Mr. S.R. Balasubramanian, to leave the house. When Mr. Balasubramaniam refused to do so, the speaker ordered the marshal to remove him. Upon this, all Congress-I members rushed to the well of the house and sat on the floor preventing the removal of their leader. Following this, the speaker ordered removal of all Congress-I members. Some of them were bodily lifted from the house. When the Congress-I members resorted to slogan shouting in the lobby, the speaker ordered the watch and ward staff to clear the lobby of them.

Ministers Say Alliance Over

BK1002160493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpt] In Tamil Nadu, six ministers of the Jayalalitha government has said that the alliance between the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] and the Congress-I is over. Talking to newspersons in Madras today after the eviction of the Congress-I members from the state assembly, the ministers led by Mr. S.D. Somasundaram said the Congress-I did not support the resolution moved by the ruling party to condemn the alleged imposition of Hindi. The pradesh [state] Congress-I president, Mr. V.K. Ramamurthi, however, said in Trichy that in spite of the misunderstanding between the two parties, the alliance will continue.

AICC-I [All India Congress-I Committee] spokesman Mr. V.N. Gadgil said in New Delhi today that the alliance between the Congress-I and ruling AIADMK in Tamil Nadu would continue. Mr. Gadgil was commenting on a statement made by six ministers in Madras announcing snapping of the Congress-I-AIADMK alliance. Asked to clarify the basis of his statement that the alliance would continue, Mr. Gadgil told PTI that a similar announcement had been made in the past, but a patch-up was effected later. Earlier, in the state assembly the chief minister moved a resolution urging the Center to implement the assurance given by Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru that Hindi will not be imposed on the state. She alleged that Tamil programs over Doordarshan [television] have been reduced, creating an impression that Hindi is being imposed in Tamil Nadu. [passage omitted]

Ex-Army Chief Urges Conciliation in Pakistani Ties

BK1002104593 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 31 Jan 93 pp 1, 14

[Article by former Army chief General K. Sundarj: "India Should Take Lead in Clearing the Air"]

[Text] "Pakistan would always like to damage India, even if it means hurting itself in the process," is a sentiment often expressed by many people in India. In most cases, it is not only a sentiment but a deeply held article of faith.

Not unnaturally, in Pakistan there are many who hold similar views regarding India. Is this true ? If so, for what period of time: for the foreseeable future, or for a shorter duration, say, 10 or 15 years ?

The answer to this question, even in terms of probabilities, is vital for the cohesive conduct of Indian foreign policy. If the answer is that it would be definitely impossible for Indo-Pakistani relations to get into a cooperative mould for the next 30 years or more, such a strategic long-term conclusion would condition Indian short-term tactical policies towards Pakistan.

TIT-FOR-TAT POLICIES: The result would be day-to-day policies that exploit every single opportunity that is offered to embarrass and denigrate the other country, and attempt to damage its national interests. International relations carried out on this basis would distort the foreign policies of both India and Pakistan, apart from ensuring that the prophecy of permanent mutual antipathy becomes self-fulfilling. This is what has been happening since 1947.

On the other hand, analyses may indicate that cooperation with Pakistan is possible, say in 15 or 20 years, to mutual advantage. It does not appear that such analyses have been undertaken. If they have been, the results have been kept under wraps. Further, if the conclusions had suggested that there was hope for Indo-Pakistan cooperation within the next two decades, we ought to have seen some modulation of day-to-day policies towards Pakistan, so that short- sighted, tit-for-tat, short-term policies do not jeopardise a desirable and attainable long-term strategic aim. We also ought to have seen an effort at educating public opinion on why cooperation with the other country would be to mutual advantage. We have seen none of these from either country. What could be the reasons for this? I can think of three alternatives:

Thorough, systematic and objective analyses have shown that there is no way of getting into a cooperative posture with Pakistan (or India) for the foreseeable future and hence there is no point in attempting to work for better mutual relations now.

Analyses have shown that there are possibilities of future rapprochement and cooperation.

The ruiing elites, however, would like to prolong mutual antagonism for serving selfish ends in internal politics. Therefore, every effort has been made to keep the concept of an external threat alive and jingoism is actively encouraged.

No analyses have been carried out, and the easiest course open has been to react to events, outdoing the other country in nastiness whenever possible; public opinion, left uneducated, would see the other country as enemy number one, and would approve this kind of reaction, reinforcing this policy of drift:

THREE SCHOOLS: In Pakistan and India, there are broadly three schools of thought concerning mutual relations. The first believes the worst: That the other country's ruling elite and people are devious and unreconciled to the very existence of the other. Hence, attempting to find peaceful and lasting solutions will be impossible. The only possible course will be to remain in a wary, adversarial stand-off or to Balkanise or undo the other country. Many of the people in this group are misguided by propaganda, with some cynically committed to this line because of the vested interest of staying in power.

It is this kind of thinking that produced the three rounds of war between the two countries. Such wars in the past, in pursuit of policy, might have been affordable in the calculation of some. Today, however, with the near certainty that both countries have nuclear weapons, such wars have the potential of devastating India, and totally destroying Pakistan as a viable state.

KISS AND MAKE UP SCHOOL: The second group consists of those who sincerely believe that the bulk of the population of both the countries consists of good people in whom the milk of human kindness gushes. The belief is that if only we can sideline the 'wicked' ruling elites, and enable large-scale contacts between the two peoples, our countries car kiss and make up! This group is larger in India than in Pakistan. It contains true idealists who abhor all wars and loathe nuclear weapons but tend to rely more on emotions than reason—some who are soft in the head and a few who exploit this line cynically for their own purposes.

In Pakistan, this approach excites enormous fear in the belief that it would lead to the loss of the very reason of Pakistan's separate existence. This Indian group only strengthens the hands of the hardliners in Pakistan by confusing the issue.

THE REALISTS: The third group is just about forming in India and Pakistan. It consists of realists, who are knowledgeable about war and peace, who have studied the nuclear doctrine as enunciated by the big powers, and have arrived at a doctrine that will be workable in the Third World context.

This group does not share the despair or cynicism of the first group and believes that a fair honourable and peaceful solution to all problems between the two countries is possible.

It believes that even a conventional war that might lead to the use of nuclear weapons is no longer an option that can be lightly chosen by decision-makers. The use of nuclear weapons would impose horrendous losses on both countries, though it might be more in the case of Pakistan. Minimum nuclear deterrence in the interim will add to stability and peace, but the only salvation is for both countries—though it might be more in the case of Pakistan—to follow policies of cooperation and not confrontation. History, however, suggests that the honesty of purpose of both sides will have to be carefully monitored.

I would agree with this third school of thought.

MAKE COMMON CAUSE: The post-Ayodhya situation has brought Indo-Pakistani relations to their nadir. Even as both countries are indulging in various brands of nastiness, I would strongly urge that both India and Pakistan better take a long-term view and decide whether it would not be in their mutual interests to cooperate and make common cause in safeguarding their own interests and the interests of the region in a fluid international milieu.

If they do believe that this is so—and is achievable in a couple of decades—they had better modulate short-term tactics in such a manner that these do not vitiate long-term aims.

In this matter, I believe that India should give the lead and, even if Pakistan does not reciprocate immediately we should not revert as a matter of course to the bad old regime of tit for tat. That is possibly what the hardline chauvinists in Pakistan want us to do. Let us not make it difficult for the more moderate elements in Pakistan that are attempting to effect a change in the Pakistani mindset.

Commentary Details Pakistan's 'Proxy War' in Kashmir

BK1002111593 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Commentary by Kuldip Singh Arora, correspondent of the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA: "Pakistan's Proxy War in Kashmir"]

[Text] Pakistan continues to fight a proxy war in Kashmir with increasing vigor and on two fronts. On one side, it is supplying arms and ammunition and training secessionist and misguided elements in Kashmir, while

on the other continues to internationalize the issue under the garb of human rights of extremists and their right of self-determination to cleverly annex Kashmir from India. Pakistan's double-talk on all fronts and increasing military aid to extremists have not only exposed Pakistan's malicious intents but also compelled the world community to think to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. At the 49th session of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva last week, Pakistan made another futile attempt to give a call for self-determination in Jammu and Kashmir in an attempt to undermine India's territorial integrity and secular fabric. Pakistan smartly and willingly forgets that right to self- determination applies only to states which are not self-governing. It is not applicable to integral parts of sovereign independent states. Why Pakistan does not apply the right of self-determination in Sindh which has been fighting a holy war of freedom from the misrule of Pakistan?

The legal validity of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir and its endorsement by the J and K Constituent Assembly soon after India became independent and its reaffirmation through continued democratic exercises cannot be forgotten by the world community that Pakistan is trying to mislead. Islamabad's support to religion-based terrorism in tandem with the call for self-determination in the area is not only an attempt to unilaterally alter the status quo on the ground but also to undermine India's secular fabric. In fact, Pakistan has emerged the single most important base for terrorism and drug peddling in the entire Indian subcontinent. It is no secret that Pakistan has been working hard to hitch Kashmir militancy into Islamic fundamentalism. It seeks to project that Muslims of Kashmir are being crushed under violations of human rights, ignoring the fact that India has 115 million Muslims—more than the Muslim population of Pakistan itself—and also ignoring the forced exodus of Kashmir pundits [Brahmans] from the valley. Action taken by Indian security forces to maintain law and order is distorted and magnified as human right violations, while the atrocities committed by Muslims are ignored or rather presented as heroic deeds of the so-called oppressed.

Pakistan has been working to subvert all democratic processes in Kashmir, including elections, elimination of Kashmir moderate leadership, terrorizing judiciary, press, and the police. To indoctrinate the militants, Pakistan has set up 105 training centers: 48 of them are in Pakistan, 49 in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and eight on the Pakistan-Afghan border. The training is held entirely by the Pakistan Army and the ISI [Interservices Intelligence]. The militants arrested by Indian security forces have not only given the location of each training center, but also the names of the Pakistan Army officers who train them in sabotaging vital installations and eliminating senior public officials, and computer-based data mode systems of wireless communications.

Between January 1990 and October 1992, Pakistan-trained militants killed 1,585 men and women, including 981 Muslims, 218 Hindus, 23 Sikhs, and 363 security men. The bodies of most of the victims speak of torture, revealing broken and dismembered limbs, severe burns on chest and back, gouged out eyes, and hacked genital organs, and women gang-raped. People in the valley are fed up with militancy and are increasingly helping security forces in isolating secessionists. According to J and K Governor Mr. Saxena, in the last three years over 7,000 Kalashnikov rifles, 400 machine guns, 400 rocket launchers, 1,000 rockets, 7,000 grenades, 2,000 pistols and revolvers, and thousands of mines have been seized. Only last week, Indian security officers seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition from Pakistani intruders who left behind 20 boxes containing 15,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 1,120 grenades, and some other guns and equipment.

The USA, the UK, France, and a number of other countries have on various occasions asked Pakistan to stop proxy war against India. It is time for Pakistan to read the writings on the wall and save the Indian subcontinent from the destruction of war. Pakistan shall never succeed in its two-nation theory. In fact, in the process, it is doing immense harm to the Muslims in India whose concern it professes to be protecting as their self-appointed benefactor.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Terrorism, Arms Purchases

LD1002154493 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received foreign ambassadors and charge d'affaires as well as representatives of international organizations assigned to Iran.

Addressing the guests the president stated that today all the world people need to enjoy peace more than anything else, and regional and international disputes have been regarded as a serious threat to the world tranquility and stability.

At the meeting, which was held on the eve of the 15th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, Mr. Rafsanjani asserted that Tehran views as a vital factor the maintenance of security in the region, and, as a member of the international community, has understood its significance and will abide by this norm.

The president later once again stressed Iran's compliance with all international regulations and denounced those who have claimed Iran supports international terrorism. Mr. Rafsanjani also stressed that Tehran itself has been a victim of terrorist acts more than any other country.

On Iran's military purchases Mr. Rafsanjani noted that a very low percentage of the country's national revenues has been allocated to meeting the armed forces' military needs, and this is evident when comparing the figure to those in other states.

At the end of the meeting the president called on the guests to act in such a way that no critical problem arises from their actions on international issues.

Delivery Reportedly Taken of DPRK Scud-C Missiles

TA0902184093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Iran recently took delivery of some Scud-C surface-to-surface missiles with a range of about 500 km, as well as a number of launching pads, in accordance with a deal signed by the Iranian authorities with North Korea. Citing a high-ranking military source, our military affairs correspondent Dani Levi adds that these missiles are in addition to about 250 Scud-B missiles supplied to Iran before the Gulf War.

Foreign Ministry Terms UAE Statement 'Irresponsible'

LD0902134193 Tehran IRNA in English 1318 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 9, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday [9 February] the recent statement of the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] was repetition of "unfounded claims" to Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf.

"The Islamic Republic's sovereignty over the three (Persian Gulf) islands is beyond doubt based on historical, legal and geographical facts in existence since long time ago," Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"Iran considers such statement in a sharp contrast with its good-will, peaceful coexistence and respect for its national sovereignty," it pointed out. The Foreign Ministry terming such statements as being "irresponsible" and "detrimental" to the interests of the region expressed hope that the UAE officials would take measures to prevent the region from becoming insecure and unstable, as wished by aliens. It also cautioned the UAE against attempts to change the status quo and against any action which might hamper constructive efforts of regional countries to strengthen friendship and cooperation.

Petroleum Minister Previews OPEC Conference

NC0902135593 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 Jan 93 p 9

[Text] The OPEC member-countries' income in 1992 is estimated at $133 billion. This estimation is based on the sale of an average of 24.3 million barrels of oil per day, the 4.5 million barrels per day domestic consumption in the member-countries, and the average basket price of OPEC crude oil, which is $18.4 per barrel.

This was stated by Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh in an interview with ABRAR. On Iran's stance in the upcoming OPEC conference on 13 February in Geneva, he stated: Iran's stance at the conference will be to emphasize a reduction in oil production by the OPEC members to prevent a drop in the current prices of oil and to help raise prices to reach OPEC's basic price level.

The petroleum minister also said that production in December by the OPEC member-countries on the basis of estimations of secondary resources is about 25.3 million barrels per day, while our country's production during the same month was 3.6 million barrels per day.

Aqazadeh said that the objective behind the visit by Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Alirio Parra and head of the OPEC conference to Iran on Sunday [7 February] was to convey a message from the Venezuelan president to our president, to discuss developments in the oil market, and to carry out consultations to adopt necessary steps to help improve current prices. Aqazadeh added: Discussions were held with the head of the OPEC conference on reducing current production by OPEC's members by a specific amount to form the basis of OPEC's production ceiling in the second quarter of 1993. This ceiling should improve oil prices.

OPEC Million Barrel Production Cut Supported

LD1002120493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Iran supports the 1 million barrels per day [mbd] production cut by OPEC.

Today, on the eve of the OPEC oil ministers' session in Vienna, the Iranian oil minister announced: The session of OPEC's ministerial market supervisory committee has placed on its agenda the decision to cut the ceiling of the organization's output by at least one mbd. This means a four to five percent cut in the quota of each member country.

The oil minister said: This decision will reduce the permissible aggregate output of the 12 OPEC member countries from 24.584 mbd to about 23.5 mbd. At the same time, it stops the members from producing more than their quotas. According to a Central News Unit report the OPEC member countries' surplus production has been reported at 0.5 mbd by the oil market sources.

In an interview with our correspondent, the oil minister pointed out: As one of the countries that proposed the holding of the OPEC oil ministers' session, Iran supports the cut in the organization's output by over one mbd for the purpose of raising the price of oil to the OPEC-approved level.

OPEC Decision Assessed

LD1002142193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1107 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The oil ministers of the 12 OPEC members are to meet in Vienna this Saturday [13 February] in order to reduce the production ceiling of this organization. [passage omitted]

According to oil experts the fall in oil prices—particularly in the winter when there is naturally a higher demand for energy—has various causes. These include the high ceiling of oil reserves, a relatively calm winter, the increase in Russian crude production, and a decrease in demand for oil due to the economic recession in the West.

Meanwhile, oil experts attribute the main cause to violations by OPEC members of OPEC decisions. Some OPEC members not only produce more than their allocated share, they undercut OPEC prices. [passage omitted]

It is anticipated that in Saturday's meeting the oil ministers will reduce the organization's production ceiling from 24.6 million barrels to 23.6 million barrels per day and will also prevent the surplus production over their allocated quota which now stands at around 0.5 million barrels.

Energy experts believe that establishing a new OPEC ceiling is sufficient to strengthen the market; however, they believe that standing by the decision could be an effective practical guarantee for any OPEC action.

Iran, which is now voluntarily producing less than its capacity in order to improve the international oil market, has consistently been at the forefront in seeking to establish a just price for oil. Iran firmly supports the reduction in the OPEC ceiling.

Petroleum Minister Leaves for Visit to Ukraine

LD1002164893 Tehran IRNA in English 1544 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 10, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh heading an oil and economic delegation left here for Kiev Ukraine today.

Aqazadeh is expected to hold talks with the Ukrainian officials on promotion of bilateral oil and economic collaboration.

Among issues to be discussed by Aqazadeh in Kiev is the laying of pipelines for export of Iranian natural gas to Ukraine through the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Anniversary of Islamic Revolution Observed

LD1002183493 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 10, IRNA—Islamic Iran once again reverberated with the majestic cry of 'allaho akbar' at 19:30 hours sharp (16:00 GMT) as the faithful took to the rooftops to express their gratitude to the Almighty for the honour bestowed on them this day 14 years ago.

Simulataneously fireworks lit up the skies, clothing the wintry darkness into a myriad of colours.

"Our revolution was the explosion of light", had said the guiding spirit behind the revolution, the late Imam Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, whose name continues to inspire the world's oppressed in their struggles against the forces of darkness and arrogant ignorance.

A regime armed to the teeth and supported by the superpowers was on this day cast into the dustbin of history by the bare hands of the determined masses, who later on rallied to the western fronts for eight long years to defeat the designs of a heavily armed aggressor.

Today, with reconstruction in progress and with enemies in despair, Iran stands firm as a beacon of light for aspiring nations wanting to discover the magic of this awe-inspiring cry.

The eastern superpower, as predicted by the Father of the Islamic Revolution, is no more around, and time may well prove some of the other prophetic words uttered by the spirit of God (Ruhollah).

The deafening sound of allaho akbar today echoes from the snow-covered camps on the Palestine-Lebanon border to the Central Asian Steppes, from the heart of the Balkans to the Horn of Africa, as the oppressed inspired by the Islamic Revolution take on aggressors.

Allaho-akbar. Islamic Iran has come of age, and with the people determined as ever to safeguard the fruits of the labour of innocent blood it will be only a matter of time when the remaining distractors of this divinely inspired movement will wither away into oblivion.

Claim by Iranian Supporting U.S. Ties Questioned

NC1002120393 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Jan 93 p 2

[Excerpt] The recent activities in the United States toward establishing relations with Iran are significant. Even though these activities are linked with the U.S. Government and the State Department, nevertheless efforts are made to look as if the discussions are being held by academic circles and in conferences so the U.S. Government will be immune to negative and decisive answers from Iran, and especially the esteemed leader, and will not be disgraced. This also grants Iranians who support establishing relations but who fear the people's revolutionary spirit the opportunity to accelerate the process of establishing relations through their contacts with officials at these conferences.

Last week a conference was held in Washington under the title "Iranian-U.S. Relations and Bill Clinton's Administration" where a number of American and Iranian experts expressed their views on this issue. One of the speakers at this conference was Iranian academician and U.S. resident Dr. Hushang Amir-Ahmadi, who clearly stated his views and said that recently he had contacts with high-ranking Iranian foreign policy officials and that what he gleaned from these contacts was that "Iran considers the change in the U.S. Administration an opportunity for a new start and supports talks

that will create trust between the two nations and be based on mutual respect and international laws."

The important point here is: Has Hushang Amir-Ahmadi met and talked with Iranian foreign policy officials? If so, whom?

It is the duty of the Foreign Ministry to answer these two questions and remove any doubts. It should also explain if these meetings took place to suit the personal tastes of certain people or if they were based on the system's policies—something we can swiftly rule out considering the esteemed leader's explicit remarks two days ago rejecting all types of contacts with the arrogant powers, especially the United States, and categorically condemning compromises and frightened stances. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Response to Paper

NC1002141493 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 31 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Following the news on the conference entitled "The Future of Iranian-U.S. Relations" in Washington in which one of the speakers claimed that he had met with Iranian foreign policy officials to discuss Iranian-U.S. relations and that these officials had expressed their wish to establish such relations, the Foreign Ministry has sent an explanation to KEYHAN, the text of which follows:

Respectable KEYHAN newspaper:

Greetings,

In reference to your articles on 28 and 30 January 1993 entitled "Conference on the Future of Iranian-U.S. Relations in Washington" and "What the United States Wants of Iran," we wish to inform you:

The Foreign Ministry is not answerable for presumptions made by speakers at various conferences in the four corners of the earth. Iran's foreign policy stances are stated by Foreign Ministry officials and this ministry does not bear any responsibility for the personal deductions of certain individuals or for what is termed "discussions with high-ranking foreign policy officials." Referring to discussions with unidentified high-ranking officials without specifying a time or venue does not constitute direct quotes but rather the personal deductions of an Iranian in a speech that does not reflect the official stance of the Foreign Ministry, and that at a time when the head of the country's diplomacy had—a day before the publication of reports in your esteemed newspaper and in RESALAT—officially pronounced Iran's official stances on this issue.

[Comment by KEYHAN] In connection with the Foreign Ministry's reply, the following points should be made:

1. This response comes after KEYHAN's continuous efforts to follow up on the matter. It is unlikely that the Foreign Ministry would have ventured to send an explanation to KEYHAN on its own.

2. This response was on a typed sheet of paper that bore neither the official emblem of the Foreign Ministry nor the signature of the Foreign Ministry official or department in charge. Even the fax number of the Foreign Ministry had been erased from the copy. Of course, the newspaper did call the Foreign Ministry to receive confirmation of the response. But the question is: Was this just a coincidence or intentional, and that on such a sensitive! and strategic! issue? [punctuation as published]

3. Why did the Foreign Ministry consider itself dutybound to refute, through its office in Germany, the attribution of the assassination of Fereydun Farrokhzad to Iran and to express its deep regret over this incident, while it does not consider itself dutybound to do so when it comes to an important report on a conference on the future of Iranian-U.S. relations and on the wish expressed by some Iranian foreign policy officials to establish relations with America, especially when unofficial reports have confirmed this news as well? On what basis are priorities measured?

4. In view of all this, the Foreign Ministry has not shown its readiness to clearly refute the meeting between one of the speakers at the conference with foreign policy officials and to officially state that no such meeting has taken place. It has only sent a diplomatic reply. Can this in itself not be considered proof of the validity of what was said at the conference?

Also, in their response the gentlemen at the Foreign Ministry did not even deem it necessary to categorically rule out Iranian-U.S. relations and emphasize Iran's uncompromising stance vis-a-vis the United States.

Deputy's Views on U.S. Ties Deemed Flawed

NC1002100193 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 26 Jan 93 pp 1, 12

[First installment of two-part editorial: "Ignorant Dreams"]

[Text] The dream of altering the atmosphere between Iran and America has enchanted some people so much that to justify their incorrect views they ignore historic and definite truths that do not even need to be recalled and they refuse to recognize reality; they entertain empty and ignorant dreams. In a recent article in RESALAT, Dr. Raja'i-Khorasani [Tehran Majles deputy and former Iranian permanent representative to the United Nations] advises U.S. President Clinton to sever his relations with Israel and to reconcile with the world of Islam. In this article he tries to make Mr. Clinton accept that neither revolutionary Islam nor the Islamic Revolution and the world of Islam are impeding U.S. diktat, but that only Israel and support for the Zionists are at issue. Naturally every person has the right to voice his views to the people, but to clarify things for Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani and for his friends and associates, it behooves us to briefly glance at certain points.

As Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani has stated, Islam is a religion of peace, security, and friendship and God has not forced anyone to accept divine decrees. Islam is a religion God has offered to save mankind from deviation and it is mankind's only salvation. The Islamic Revolution has, in effect, adopted this very approach. By offering Islam to its society and to the world, it has shown people the correct path. But why have the world's hegemonists been hostile toward Islam from the outset? Before the cancerous tumor of Israel appeared, British Prime Minister Churchill said that as long as the Koran lives among the Muslims, it will be impossible to dominate them. Basically the spirit of hegemony, plundering, and despotism constitute the main reasons for opposition by powers such as the United States to Islam and the Muslims—opposition that is not limited to a specific period. The United States today is the manifestation of this spirit; and the contrast between Islam and the United States is that of freedom, independence, national sovereignty, humanity, grandeur, and respect vs. the spirit of hegemony, plundering, dependence, suppression, and oppression.

The U.S. Government is a manifestation of all these abominations. The Muslim Iranian nation and the Muslim, deprived, and oppressed nations of the world do not begrudge America or even the U.S. Government defending its interests within its geographic framework. It is wrong to think that the difference between the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian Government and the Iranian nation and the U.S. Government and nation is a difference between two independent countries. If there are differences between Islamic Iran and America it is because of America's expansionism and because America considers itself to be the world leader. It is because wherever there is wealth in this world, America believes it has vital interests. It is because America carried out a military expedition in the Persian Gulf thousands of miles from its territory to plunder the oil, gas, and national wealth of the Muslims. It is because without any legal or humanitarian justification it has sacrificed the oppressed nationals of Granada, Panama, Vietnam, Korea, Somalia, and Bosnia for its greedy intentions. If, in your opinion, America severs its relations with Israel—which is impossible—but continues to plunder every corner of the universe, can we legitimize America's actions, and can this alter the atmosphere of U.S-Iranian relations? Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani has clearly erred in his assessments.

Second Installment of Editorial

NC1002110093 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 27 Jan 93 pp 1, 12

[Second and last installment of editorial: "Ignorant Dreams"]

[Excerpts] The Islamic Revolution is as opposed to capitalism as it is to communism, since from the very outset of his struggles Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, voiced the slogan of neither east nor West. It was precisely this slogan that proved that communism and capitalism are two sides of the same coin, and this slogan is part of the recognized aspirations of the Islamic Revolution and of the founders of the Islamic Republic of Iran. What explains the decadence in the West today? Have not the spirit ruling Western capitalism and the hegemonistic and materialistic policies ruling this system led to this decadence? When you say that "Islam is also spreading in the West and is helping to ensure the well-being of the people of Western societies, protecting them from moral decadence, alcoholism, addiction, and AIDS by promoting chastity, honesty, social security, healthy living, fulfilling commitments, and upgrading their morals and spirituality without threatening the political structure," you actually degrade Islam and imply that it is the duty, objective, and intention of Islam to become a tool in the hands of completely deviant political structures in the West. Contrary to your views, Mr. Raja'i- Khorasani, the root of all the decadence in the West lies in their political systems; Western leaders are very well aware that this is where the contrast between revolutionary Islam and these governments stems from. The role you envisage for Islam is the same role that the Islam of the Saudis and of people like Mubarak and Ben Bella plays, and Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, categorically rejected this type of Islam as being bigoted and American.

Where do the adversities of Middle Eastern Muslims stem from? Those who believe that Zionism is merely an ethnic, religious, and political phenomenon are wrong. Zionism is a completely colonialist phenomenon that has been created by the West and the world's hegemonists to be used as a tool to extend their diktat on the world of Islam. Zionism is the child of British colonialist and American hegemonistic ideas. The bond between America and Zionism is very strong. Zionism is part of American policies. Therefore, how can America stop its support for Israel? Severing relations between Zionism and America is tantamount to ending America's imperialistic and capitalistic nature. No logical person could hope for such an impossible dream unless he is ignorant or his thoughts are based on other ideas. [passage omitted]

In another part of his article, Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani says: "The United States does not need to maintain a military presence in the Middle East at such an exorbitant cost to gain access to the Middle East's energy resources. This is only possible if it refuses to be duped by false and deceptive Israeli propaganda."

These words are unlikely to have come from someone with political experience. Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani: America's objective behind its costly military expedition and its military presence in the Persian Gulf is not only to ensure the purchase of oil. Even people with no political knowledge know this. America's objective is to purchase cheap oil and recycle petrodollars by selling arms to the region's wealthy. America's objective is to control Islamic movements and to prevent the revival of Islamic and revolutionary values among Muslims. America would be very stupid to spend such exorbitant sums just

for oil. America is well aware that if it stays at home and agrees to buy oil at a reasonable price, the oil exporters themselves will go after it because they could not hope to find a better or richer customer than America. Do you think that this bright idea has not dawned on America? Our dispute with America and world hegemonists is over logical oil transactions [sentence as published]. Americans basically do not believe the Muslim people of the Persian Gulf have any rights. If you look at American views and theories, you will see that they claim to have vital rights and interests in this region and that they basically consider Israel to be a tool in their hands to ensure the plundering of Persian Gulf oil and energy. [passage omitted]

In another part of his article, Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani says that "the only danger the United States faces in the region is its blind and thoughtless support of Israel. Otherwise, there is no reason for Muslims to differentiate between the United States and European countries."

This too is a point that should be closely studied. First of all, the American threat is not only aimed at the Middle East but at the entire world. America's bloodstained boots are felt in the Middle East as much as they are felt in Bosnia, Somalia, Vietnam, Granada, etc. America is as much involved in the annihilation of the Muslims in the Middle East as it is in other parts of the world. Secondly, if you are speaking on behalf of the world Muslims, then we should inform you that from their point of view there is no difference between America and Europe. If you see a difference today it is in the methods they use. Incidentally, Algerian Muslims did not hate French colonialists any less than they hate America. Iraqi Muslims do not hate Britain and America any less than they hate Israel. The Lebanese Muslims feel the same degree of hatred for Britain, France, and America. And the Indian Muslims have a deep hatred for the British. Can you easily forget these historic realities?

America can reconcile with the world of Islam and hope for a change in the atmosphere with Iran only when it stops its hegemony, its hostility toward Islam and the Muslims, its expansionism, and its plundering of nations. It is only then that America will not be what it is today. But we believe that such ignorant dreams should be set aside and that if we want to propound a practical solution to political problems, we should do so by preserving our revolutionary values.

Death Sentence on Salman Rushdie Reiterated

LD0902192393 Tehran IRNA in English 1857 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] London, Feb. 9, IRNA—It would be extremely depressing for the British public to see their nation's cultural and economic links being seriously threatened by attempts from apostate Salman Rushdie to secure his own interests, Iran's London Embassy has said.

Rather it was "up to government's concerned to ensure that they will not fall prey" to the self-centered approaches made by the Indian-born author, whose cause had been to simply make money, it said in a released statement Tuesday [9 February].

The comments from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran came as British Foreign Office Minister Hogg called for international leaders and organizations to rally behind the case of the sentenced apostate.

Speaking at the 49th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva Tuesday, the minister, Hogg, tried to argue that the fatwa against Rushdie was a 'human rights issue.'

Rushdie who authored the highly-blasphemous book 'The Satanic Verses' was, in accordance to divine laws, sentenced to death in February 1989 by the father of the Islamic revolution, days after the ugly work spilled Muslim blood in India and Pakistan.

The apostate has been hiding in Britain ever since to escape the wrath of the ummah.

All schools of Islamic jurisprudence are unanimous on death penalty for an apostate born of Muslim parents, irrespective of whether he repents or not, because repentance in this particular faith is a matter solely concerning divine mercy in the hereafter.

However, the recent involvement of the British Foreign Office and its sudden change of policy has followed a concerted campaign by Rushdie and his backers, many of whom are Jewish.

Timed with the renewed publicity was also a film broadcast on Channel Four Television Sunday night about his life in hiding. And to coincide with the anniversary of the triumph of Islamic revolution in Iran this Thursday, a book is being published on the same subject.

The Foreign Office has not been able to substantiate or clarify its real intentions in allowing the issue to be refuelled after four years.

No spokesman has been able to spell out the British government's requirements. Even BBC World Service, which is funded by the Foreign Office, has been unable to find any new basis for refuelling the affair as a dispute with Iran, which can only undermine relations.

It was against the background of Britain's hostile attitude towards Islam, when refusing to act against the publication of Rushdie's blasphemous book, 'The Satanic Verses,' that led Iran to give a week's notice and sever relations with London in March 1989.

Ties were not renewed until two-and-a-half years ago, after a change in attitude was signalled by the British government and its acceptance that the fatwa could not be revoked, that it was a matter of religious jurisprudence and not one of the Iranian state.

For the British government now to suggest that Iran should "repudiate" the fatwa, is not only ambiguous but provocative.

The Iranian government has repeatedly made it clear that Rushdie has no one else to blame for his predicament than himself. There can be no responsibility placed upon the Iranian state for his fate.

History cannot be undone and as all Muslim countries recognise his position is indefensible and beyond reprieve, regardless of what national statesmen say or do [sentence as received].

Foundation Head Says Rushdie Edict Irrevocable

LD0902153293 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 9, IRNA—Head of 15 Khordad Foundation Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Sane'i said here Tuesday [9 February] that the late Imam Khomeyni's death edict on the apostate Indian-born British author of "The Satanic Verses", Salman Rushdie is irrevocable.

The hojjat ol-eslam made the remark in reference to the recent approaches by the German ambassador to Tehran and many foreign journalists who had requested to hold talks with the foundation officials over the Rushdie affair. "However, their efforts was fruitless because we have made our position clear on the issue through the Iranian mass media and will continue to do so," he said.

The hojjat ol-eslam added that as soon as any opinion is expressed about the apostate Rushdie, the world media start making analysis and the arrogant powers react.

The Indian-born British writer was condemned to death by the late leader of the revolution, Imam Khomeyni, in 1989.

Sane'i added that leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i has repeatedly reiterated that the late imam's edict on Rushdie is irrevocable.

He said that all Western countries summoned their diplomatic representatives from Tehran in the wake of the late imam's death sentence on Rushdie in 1989, but reversed their decision after a while.

He said his foundation, which is a non-governmental institution, had become the center of attention of the arrogant supporters of Rushdie because it has offered a prize for the person who carries out the late imam's edict.

Writer's Assassination Said Mosad-Turkish Plot

NC0902135093 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 30 Jan 93 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "The Assassination of a Turkish Journalist and the Turkish Government's Objectives"]

[Text] A statement issued after the Turkish cabinet meeting following the assassination of a journalist [Ugur Mumcu] says: The government is determined to remove any idea or movement that obstructs the progress of the deep-rooted principles of this republic (laicism). The statement also stresses that Turkey is a secular republic founded on the principle that religion does not mix with politics.

Ninety-nine percent of the Turkish people are Muslims. Last week demonstrations were organized in Ankara, apparently to condemn the assassination of a Turkish journalist in Istanbul. On Thursday [28 January] similar demonstrations were held in a number of other Turkish cities. These incidents magnify the need to search for and to understand the motives behind such attempts, especially since some people in Istanbul gathered in front of the Iranian consulate and voiced slogans such as "Turkey will not become Iran" or "Mullahs go to Iran" and "Long live the Turkish Republic!" But the assassination of the Turkish journalist and the resulting propaganda against the Muslims in Turkey and Iran have several objectives:

1. The role of the Israeli regime in this incident cannot be ignored. The Israeli regime is trying to upset the tranquil and friendly atmosphere between Iran and its neighbors (Islamic and Arab countries). For the Zionists it is of great importance for the political pressures by the world's free-thinking public opinion on the liberation of Palestinian territories to be reduced and for international public attention to be distracted from Israel's inhuman acts in occupied Palestine.

It seems that Turkey's National Intelligence Organization (MIT) [Milli Istihbarat Teskilati] has prepared the scenario for the Turkish journalist's assassination with the help of Israel's Mosad in pursuance of several objectives:

The first is to influence public opinion in Turkey, which strongly believes the secular regime is ignoble, and to tell the Turkish people that supporters of Islamic rule are brutal terrorists!

The second is to start a new wave of propaganda against Iran and to portray a negative picture of Iran and of Islamic groups. The Turkish press has intensified its propaganda against Iran over the past few days.

Slogans such as death to Islamic rule—and that coming from the Islamic country of Turkey—are definitely not being voiced by the Turkish nation; and such slogans cannot quench the thirst for Islam by the people and justify the secular regime.

Borujerdi Meets Afghan President's Special Envoy

LD1002113793 Tehran IRNA in English 1112 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb., 10, IRNA—Abdolhay Elahi, the special envoy of the Afghan president said here Tuesday

[9 February] that Kabul expected Tehran to launch new efforts to put an end to the clashes in Afghanistan.

Elahi who is carrying a message for the Iranian president, made the remarks in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs Ala'eddin Borujerdi.

He said the Islamic government in Afghanistan was concerned about the people's plight in Kabul and hoped the war would end soon.

Borujerdi said Tehran has repeatedly announced its concern over the unrest in Afghanistan, and hoped the current clashes would stop very soon.

The Jahadi leaders should be "self-restrained" and prefer negotiations to clashes, otherwise the future of Afghanistan would be very "worrying" and the little facilities left would be annihiliated.

Ahmad Khomeyni Stresses Role of Air Force

LD0602204193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Excerpts] On the sixth day of the auspicious Ten Days of Dawn and the anniversary of the historic allegiance of Air Force commanders and personnel to His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, thousands of Air Force commanders and personnel attended the immaculate shrine of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and once again paid allegiance to the lofty aspirations of the late esteemed leader. [passage omitted]

During the ceremonies, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni reiterated the valuable role of of the Air Force in maintaining the territorial integrity of the Islamic homeland and stressed raising the military know-how of the Air Force. He added: Air Force commanders, officials, and personnel have achieved important results in alleviating technical and technological shortages. However, this is not enough.

In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: What the so-called civilized world of today cannot understand is the divine and spiritual nature of the Islamic revolution. We believe that under the shadow of unity, fraternity, and reliance on liberating Islamic laws, any task in improving and developing the welfare of the Islamic society is possible, God willing. [passage omitted]

Trilateral Meeting on Kurdish Unrest Previewed

LD1002130193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1107 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The second trilateral meeting between the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey, and Syria will be held in Damascus today. The aim of the meeting is the coordination of the policies of the three countries to prevent the destructive effects of internal unrest in Iraq, particularly in the northern region, on the national security of the three countries.

The first meeting between the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey, and Syria was held three months ago in Ankara where Iraq's neighboring countries emphasized Iraq's territorial integrity and announced their opposition to the separatist tendencies of Iraqi Kurds.

The oil war and its destructive effect on Iraq made it necessary for the neighboring countries to coordinate in controlling and limiting the negative effects of the disintegration of power in northern Iraq on their own national security.

The loss of control by the central government over Kurdish areas and the rule of the various Kurdish opposition groups there, as well as efforts by these groups to establish a parliament and an executive power, has caused concern in the neighboring countries regarding the violation of Iraq's territorial integrity. [passage omitted]

These concerns were the reasons behind the meeting between officials of the three neighboring countries and the talks regarding Iraq's domestic developments. Until now, the consecutive trilateral meetings among Iran, Turkey, and Syria have led to the formation of some principles on the issue.

All three countries emphasize the territorial integrity of Iraq and oppose any form of separatist tendency or even a prelude that could lead to Iraq's disintegration. Some political experts believe that although the Iraqi issue is the central theme of the meeting, there is the possibility of bilateral talks between the foreign ministers of the three countries.

Following the recent Turkish decision to build a fourth dam over the Euphrates river, Syria has differences with Turkey regarding its share of the water. Turkey too needs the cooperation of both Syria and Iran to combat opposition forces in its southern provinces. Also, tension in Iran-Turkey relations, which led to the recent cancellation of a trip by Iran's vice president to Turkey, could be an item in the possible talks between Iran and Turkey.

* IRI Enters Into Negotiations for GATT

93AS0443B London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 93 p 4

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Economic observers consider these negotiations "unseemly" because a country that wants to become a member of GATT must accept its charter, which is based on a free-market economy and coordinate its customs tariffs with the general tariffs of the member countries, whereas some of the leaders of the Islamic Republic, including 'Ali Khamene'i the leader of the regime, has

said more than once that the free-market economy "belongs to the Westerners," and the Islamic Republic must not imitate it.

* Denmark Halts Export Credit Guarantees

93EN0142Z Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 13 Jan 93 p III 3

[Article by Lise Tajik: "Export Credit Tightened"]

[Text] *Iran has run up a debt to Danish exporters of over 100 million kroner. As a result, the Export Credit Commission has suspended guarantees for medium- and long-term credits. Only experienced exporters can expect to get any assistance.*

The Export Credit Commission has decided to limit export guarantees to Iran as much as possible because Danish exporters have a difficult time obtaining payment for their goods.

Iran owes over 100 million kroner for Danish goods and many guarantees will fall due in the coming months. Normally, exporters can demand compensation for export guarantees six months after they fall due.

"We are limiting guarantees for Iran in order to avoid increasing the risk and we have suspended medium- and long-term credits," said Merethe Rasmussen, assistant director of the Export Credit Commission.

She emphasized, however, that guarantees could be obtained, but that new credits would be issued only to exporters who were familiar with the market.

"The Iranians have traditionally distinguished themselves as reliable payers, but in the past six months we have noticed an unfortunate trend, which has accelerated. For the last four months we have monitored the situation carefully and now find it so critical that we must try to limit our losses," said Rasmussen.

However, an attempt will be made to prevent experienced exporters from suffering. Those who already have a market will have permission to maintain it and continue exporting—provided that payment continues to come in. The Export Credit Commission will carefully evaluate each case, and new exporters cannot expect to receive assistance.

Denmark's largest debtors continue to be Nigeria and the Sudan. Russia, also, has incurred a large debt, while a number of other unreliable payers have entered into debt refinancing agreements.

* Special Council To Investigate Metro Accident

93AS0443C London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 93 pp 1, 11

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] The Tehran Metro, as Hashemi-Rafsanjani promised in 1365 [21 Mar 1986-20 Mar 1987], was supposed to become operational "in three years," that is, in 1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990]. At that time, the agreement to build the Tehran Metro network, which was signed with the French, had not yet been canceled. The agreement was canceled for reasons that were not announced either by the French or the Iranians.

The Tehran Urban Railroad Company, under Iranian management, took charge of installing the Tehran Metro lines. The digging, which had been left unfinished for a long time, resumed. Not much attention was paid to the cave-ins either, since the cave-ins were minimal. The cave-in of the Metro walls on Imam Khomeyni Street during a dense traffic hour in the city of Tehran is another story.

Immediately after the cave-in, IRNA announced that passengers from two cars and several passersby who had fallen into the hole resulting from the cave-in were "killed or injured." But news that has arrived from Tehran recently indicates a tragedy. Yes, two cars and several passersby were buried under tons of dirt, cement, and steel, but IRNA failed to mention the sinking of two buses filled with passengers into the hole created by the cave-in. In the accident that occurred, undoubtedly dozens lost their lives.

Although the report that has been published by the Tehran General Prosecutor's Office does not say anything about the victims of the accident, it shows that the magnitude was much greater than what was announced initially.

A special investigator has been assigned to investigate this case; "expert committees" from the Ministries of Roads [and Transport], Labor, and Higher Education, and the Architecture and Engineering University, and also the official exports of the Ministry of Justice, make up the "team" of that special investigator. Also, according to the Public Relations Office of the General Prosecutor's Office, "because of the importance of the issue," the same interrogator has set bail for the supervising engineers of the Metro Company, which has been regarded as "very substantial."

Earlier, the Metro Company, the Fire Department, the City Hall, and even one of the temporary Friday imams of Tehran expressed opinions about which organization was at fault regarding the accident, but the issue is clearly much more significant.

Sources wishing to remain anonymous have told KEYHAN that the French have prepared a precise map of the Tehran underground, especially where the Metro is supposed to pass, whereas the present company that is building the Metro has no such map, and subsequently digging is done in a sense "blindly." It is said in Tehran that the French placed the maps at the disposal of the Iranian company building the Metro. Nevertheless, there is a gap between a map that is on paper and a plan that must be implemented, which cannot be filled easily. Besides, the soil and underground water studies in

Tehran available to the Tehran Urban Railroad Company are only available in an incomplete form.

Informed sources say that if the investigating committee tells the whole truth, it will have to reveal all of the shortcomings; otherwise, it cannot help but to cover up the tragedy of the flood in Tajrish Square and the vicinity in 1367 [21 Mar 1988-20 Mar 1989].

Despite all of this, the flood occurred once and claimed its victims, whereas if the digging of the Metro continues in this manner, it will claim many more victims. For this reason, the committee will have no choice but to seriously pursue the matter.

In the meantime, reports indicate that the walls of the Tehran Metro are not resistant to earthquakes stronger than 5 on the Richter scale. This was stated by a Majles deputy in a Tehran newspaper merely as a question.

It is also said that the government of the Islamic Republic is negotiating with Chinese officials to build the Tehran Metro. But the Chinese themselves had signed a contract with the French to build the Canton Metro, even though they canceled their contract because of the sale of French Mirages to Taiwan.

* Former Official on Country's Medical Condition

93AS0443E London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Dr. Iraj Fazel, the former minister of science and higher education as well as health, treatment and medical education and the present head of the National Medical System Organization, announced in a press conference last week that Tehran private hospitals are about to go bankrupt due to government medical tariffs, and for this reason for a long time now no one has been able to establish a private hospital. Fazel said: The cost of a rest in a hotel is six times the rate of one night in a hospital bed. Fazel emphasized that the issue of medical tariffs is one of the problems of the country. He added: Water and electricity rates have changed and increased by several times, but the medical tariffs are not even twice what they were before. The continuation of this situation is impossible for the medical community in the country. Fazel said: The Iranian medical community is a poor, helpless community, and for this reason we have many problems in regards to the living conditions of the physicians and educated classes. Fazel pointed out: Despite the fact that medical tariffs are not fair, these tariffs must be implemented for now.

* Karrubi's Wife Resigns From Foundation

93AS0443F London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Fatemeh Karrubi, the wife of Mehdi Karrubi, the former speaker of the Majles and former head of the Martyr Foundation, resigned her post as deputy director of that foundation. Several months ago, after the Fourth Majles elections, in which he did not receive sufficient votes, Mehdi Karrubi was removed from his position as the head of the Martyr Foundation and replaced by Mohammad Hasan Rahimian.

Fatemeh Karrubi was the deputy director for pharmaceuticals and treatment of the above-mentioned foundation, which is one of the wealthiest foundations in the country, and alongside vast industrial and commercial activities also has general hospitals and pharmacies.

The resignation of Fatemeh Karrubi was accepted by Rahimian, the new head of the Martyr Foundation.

Pakistan

Russia Ready for 'Limited Cooperation' in Defense

BK0902155793 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Feb 93 p 1

[By Mohammad Saleh Zaafir]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 8—As a result of fresh diplomatic initiatives, Russia has assured Pakistan that it is ready for limited cooperation in defence with it.

According to highly-placed sources in the Foreign Office, Islamabad took up some important issues with Russia through diplomatic channels after Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to India last month and sought clarification on some major issues, including Kashmir, Pakistan's proposal for five-nation conference on denuclearization of South Asia and cooperation in the field of defence.

Meantime, the sources confirmed that Islamabad had also established fresh contacts with Washington, but no positive development has taken place so far.

Shaharyar M Khan, Foreign Secretary, while talking to a group of journalists in the Parliament House cafeteria on Monday afternoon, confirmed Islamabad's fresh moves with Moscow and Washington.

To a question, he said, there was no question of postponement of the Prime Minister's visit. However, he said no date had been set for it as yet. He said it was expected that the date would be finalised by next month and the visit would take place in the middle of this year.

To a query, the Foreign Secretary did not agree with the impression given by the Indian and some of the international media about Boris Yeltsin's Delhi visit. He said the Russian position should be seen against the background of questions, asked by newsmen from Mr Yeltsin at his press conference in New Delhi. "There is no conformity in the actual Russian policy and Mr. Yeltsin's reported position," he added.

Shaharyar said, soon after the visit of Russian President to New Delhi, Islamabad made certain queries through diplomatic channels. "We told them that Pakistan never

asked the Russians for military aid. Moscow is cooperating with countries like Venezuela and Djibouti in the field of defence but its attitude towards Pakistan is discriminatory".

He said Russia still considered Kashmir as a dispute between Pakistan and India which should be resolved through mutual negotiations.

To a question, the Foreign Secretary said, Pakistan's announcement regarding its nuclear capability did not mean that Islamabad should signs the NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty]. Pakistan had a just position on the question, he said. "India, who attained the capability way back in 1974, should sign it first. Indian nuclear capability is a real potential threat for the world peace," he added.

To a question he said the chemical weapons convention [CWC] signed by Pakistan last month in Paris had not come in force as it had to be ratified in two years. He said the signing of CWC does not mean that the inspectors would crash the gates of Kahuta Research Laboratories (KRL).

To another question he said the inclusion of India in the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] was not considered.

Defense Minister Holds Talks With Turkish Counterpart

BK0902160293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Pakistan and Turkey are to work together with other peace-loving nations of the region to foil designs of any adventurous country in the area to establish its hegemony. This was stated by Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah during a meeting with his Turkish counterpart Nevzat Ayaz in Islamabad today. The Turkish defense minister said that his country is fully aware of the serious violations of human rights in occupied Kashmir and it is their utmost desire to see that the problem is resolved in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people. Later, the two ministers signed an agreement regarding the terms of reference for the Pakistan-Turkey military consultancy group.

The Turkish defense minister also met with Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, the federal minister for defense production, and discussed promotion of bilateral cooperation in the field of production.

Agreements Signed

TA1002091593 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2100 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] National Defense Minister Nevzat Ayaz, currently on an official visit to Pakistan, has begun his contacts. The defense ministers of the two countries signed the Turkish-Pakistani defense industry security agreement and the military consultative group duty instructions agreement in Islamabad today.

Ayaz held separate meetings today with Pakistani Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah and Defense Production Minister Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani. Later, official talks began between the two delegations.

Ayaz noted that various regional problems, particularly Bosnia-Hercegovina and Karabakh, were discussed during the meetings, adding that the two countries fully concur on these matters.

The defense minister is expected to be received by Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif tomorrow.

Talks With France on Central Asia, Defense Cooperation

BK1002061693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Formal talks between Pakistan and France in various bilateral, regional, and international matters of importance—including Kashmir, Afghanistan, and recent changes in Central Asia—were held in Islamabad yesterday. The two sides took stock of the existing relations and explored avenues for further expanding bilateral cooperation in different fields. The Pakistan side was led by Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, while the French delegation was headed by Georges Kiejman, French minister of state for foreign affairs. The talks also covered expansion of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

The French side appreciated Pakistan's principled stand on Kashmir and expressed hope that the issue would be resolved in the interests of the people of the region. It offered in this connection its total cooperation to achieve the common objective of international peace and stability.

During its meeting with Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, the leader of the French delegation agreed that there was a need to further explore cooperation possibilities. They discussed matters pertaining to the defense of Pakistan with reference to the defense deals with France.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives for Brief Visit

BK0902164093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Kuwait has expressed support for Pakistan's stand on Kashmir issue and called for the resolution of this problem in accordance with UN resolutions. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who arrived in Islamabad on a day's visit this evening, told newsmen at the airport that his country firmly believes that issues like Kashmir and Bosnia-Hercegovina should be resolved in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. Appreciating Pakistan's role in the Gulf crisis, he expressed the confidence that cordial relations between the two countries will grow further in the days to come.

Meets With President

BK1002114193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today and handed over a letter of Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabha. Expressing satisfaction over the close and fraternal ties between the two countries, he thanked the president for Pakistan's support to his country during the Gulf crisis.

The president informed him that Pakistan's policy is based on principles and it will adhere to it.

Seypidin Aze, leader of the Chinese parliamentry delegation, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and president of Pakistan-China Friendship Society, also called on the president and held talks with him on various matters of mutual interest. They reviewed various aspects of Pakistan-China ties and expressed a common desire to improve them further.

Speaker Hosts Banquet for Chinese Parliamentary Group

BK1002062593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] China has again assured Pakistan of its continued cooperation for promoting bilateral relations and safeguarding world peace and progress. The assurance was reitearted by Seypidin Aze, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, at a banquet in Islamabad last night which was hosted in their honor by National Assembly Speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan. The Chinese delegation leader said that the two countries will continue to move toward multipolarity and cooperate in the political, economical, trade, scientific, and technical fields and benefit from each other's experience.

The National Assembly speaker greatly appreciated the Chinese assistance for the security and progress of Pakistan. He referred to Pakistan's efforts for peace and stability in the region threatened by the designs of some quarters to become a regional superpower. Gauhar Ayub Khan also said that the peace and stability is also being disrupted due to the continued denial of the Kashmiri people's legal rights.

The Chinese delegation members also met with Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad who explained the importance of Sino-Pakistan friendship in the interest of peace and stability in the region. He said Pakistan wants the resolution of the Kashmir issue for peace and stability in South Asia. He said China and Pakistan also desire for peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan.

UAE Vice President Concludes Visit

BK0902145893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The vice president and prime minister of UAE [United Arab Emirates], Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, left Islamabad today for home after a two-day stay in Pakistan. At Islamabad Airport, he was given a hearty send-off by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. Those present at the airport included Chairman of Senate Mr. Wasim Sajjad, federal ministers, and members of the diplomatic corps and high officials. Before boarding his special plane, Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid took salute from a contingent of the three services. The national anthems of UAE and Pakistan were played. The distinguished guest met the three services chiefs. During his two-day visit, the vice president of UAE held meetings with the prime minister and the president. He also visited the Kamra Aeronautical Complex.

Joint Investment Company Discussed With UAE

BK1002061293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] have decided to set up a joint investment company in the private sector to promote their economic cooperation and set up joint ventures. The decision was during talks between the delegations of the two countries in Islamabad yesterday.

The UAE delegation was led by Communications Minister Sa'id al-Mulla, while the Pakistan delegation was headed by Sartaz Aziz, federal minister for finance and economic affairs. The federal ministers for industries, information and broadcasting, and labor and manpower and the minister of state for communications also joined the talks.

Both sides also discussed the possibility of starting a ferry service between Pakistan and the UAE for facilitating movement of tourists and for cargo sevice. The UAE delegation briefed the Pakistan side on the special priority given Pakistani workers and their role in the UAE's economy.

Appeal Issued for Immediate Cease-Fire in Afghanistan

BK1002050493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Pakistan has again appealed for an immediate cease-fire in Afghanistan and said the continuing clashes between government troops and their opponents are causing heavy loss of life among innocent civilians. The appeal was made by Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, minister of state for foreign affairs, in a meeting with his Afghan counterpart (Dr. Najibollah Lafrayet), in Islamabad yesterday. Grave concern was expressed by Pakistan about the fighting in Kabul and Pakistan gave

the assurance that it is willing to extend all possible assistance for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

Premier on Ties With Saudi Arabia, Afghan Peace Effort

BK0902165193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has reiterated that Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have identical views on all issues concerning the two countries, especially on achieving a peaceful settlement of differences among the Afghan mojahedin leadership. In a statement to the leading Arabic daily of Saudi Arabia, 'UKAZ, the prime minister said his talks with King Fahd, the custodian of the two holiest shrines, centered on the Saudi king's sincere proposal, in which he has invited the Afghan mojahedin leaders to meet in Saudi Arabia to resolve their differences peacefully. The prime minister said Saudi Arabia and its leadership have played an important and remarkable role in all affairs concerning the Islamic community. Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are working together to bring about an understanding among Afghan mojahedin leaders.

Nawaz Sharif lauded the existing strong ties between the two countries and said these relations are eternal because they were not established in one day. He added the governments of the two countries are making sincere efforts to the best of their ability to utilize these ties to serve the interests of the people of the two countries and the cause of the Islamic community. The prime minister described his meeting with King Fahd as useful, positive, and constructive, saying the meeting was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Report on Envoy's Talks at State Department Doubted

BK1002020793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 9 Feb 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] The Foreign Office is not "impressed" by the Press report from Washington which suggest that Ambassador Abida Hussain had a fruitful meeting at the State Department.

The Foreign Secretary reacting politely to the reported results said it appears over-optimistic, particularly for a first meeting and a new administration. However he declined to comment further.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that Javed Hasmi, Minister for Housing, might visit US shortly to initiate contacts with the Clinton Administration. Hashmi has lately walked into the limelight by signing Chemical Weapons Convetion [CWC] which has dubious conditions regarding inspections and verification. Some people in Pakistan believe Islamabad might have to submit nuclear facilities for international inspections following signing the CWC.

The Foreign Secretary had a meeting on Monday with a minister in the Parliament House. He is believed to have briefed the minister on his possible visit to Washington.

Paper Urges Clinton To Change Policy, Attitude

BK0902143193 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 2 Feb 93 p 10

[Editorial: "The Clinton Administration and Pakistan—the Need for a Positive Attitude"]

[Text] While the Western and the Jewish circles have been constantly carrying out the baseless and virulent propaganda against their most favorite issue of Pakistan's alleged "Islamic bomb," they seldom speak out against the Jewish bomb or the Hindu bomb, even though these two bombs are almost a reality. Pakistan is definitely well-versed in utilizing nuclear technology, but it has neither exploded any nuclear device nor does it have the technical and material resources which are indispensable for the production of nuclear weapons in any perceptible scale unlike both the Hindus and the Jews are far ahead of Pakistan in this field. There are confirmed reports about Israel's possessing a big stockpile of nuclear weapons and the concerned international circles are fully aware of India's progress in this field, but they raise a rumpus only against Pakistan's alleged bomb.

A major exception to this familiar propaganda campaign was seen the other day when the influential U.S. daily THE NEW YORK TIMES, in its strong and logical editorial, urged the United States and its allies to use their influence and try to keep India from developing more nuclear weapons. The newspaper has acknowledged that Pakistan is willing to make even more firm and abiding pledges not to manufacture nuclear weapons provided India does the same. But India is refusing to accept Pakistan's argument, saying that New Delhi's program is actually designed to counter China's bomb. But, again, it is not impossible to seek an assurance from China that India does not have to be afraid of China's nuclear weapons. It would be good for China, too, because India's further advancement in the nuclear field is not in China's interest as well.

According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, India is currently trying to establish close political, economic, and technical cooperation with the West and Japan. If these countries choose to impose a condition that India will not receive this cooperation until and unless it declares its intention to stop its nuclear weapon development program, it can help in persuading New Delhi to adopt a sensible path. The newspaper opines that if Pakistan and India enter into an agreement to stop their respective nuclear programs at the existing level and also agree to allow inspection of each other's nuclear installations, apprehensions about the South Asian situation taking a deleterious turn can be considerably reduced. If the Clinton administration is willing to move forward on these lines and desires to help create an understanding between the two South Asian countries, it ought to know that it has very little time left for this purpose.

THE NEW YORK TIMES editorial is an important voice of wisdom emanating from the United States and the West and Mr. Clinton should pay serious heed to this call. Pakistan has been maintaining a just approach to the question of nuclear weapons for a long time now and it is only India's intransigence that has been coming in the way of any positive progress toward this end. Should the United States and Japan jointly decide to take effective steps to save West [as published] Asia from a nuclear conflict, there is no reason why their efforts will not bear fruit.

Meanwhile, Pakistani Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad has urged the new U.S. Administration to review the obsolete Pressler Amendment because the legislation has failed in checking the proliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia. He said that India has not only manufactured a nuclear bomb, but it is also developing missiles with which it would be able to hit the United States as well by the year 2000. Washington's insistence on the Pressler Amendment is harming U.S. interests in this region. If the United States wants to bring an end to the nuclear arms race in South Asia, it should initiate action on new lines. The Pakistani Senate chairman's argument offers food for serious thought on the part of the new U.S. Administration. Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, in her personal letter to Mr. Clinton, has asked him to remove restrictions on U.S. economic and military aid to Pakistan, adding that if all restrictions cannot be lifted immediately, the ban on matters relating to comparatively less disputed areas be lifted.

Whatever has been said by the Senate chairman and Benazir Bhutto to the new U.S. President should be construed as the joint call of the entire Pakistani nation and the Democratic [preceding word in English] President should not fail to appreciate the viewpoints of the entire Pakistani populace. Pakistan and the United States have had a long history of friendship and cooperation. Even today, their perceptions and priorities concerning West, Central, and South Asia are substantially identical, and even after the typical settlement of the Afghan problem or at least after the withdrawal of the former Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the end of the Najibollah regime there, the need for cooperation and interaction between them has not ended completely.

Under these circumstances, the new U.S. President should understand Pakistan's stand and state of affairs in their proper perspective instead of looking at them through any particular lobby's angle and should agree to review the unjustified and unilateral stand the U.S. Government has been maintaining against Pakistan for the past two and one-half years. It is hoped that while considering its foreign policy priorities, the Clinton administration will not fail to cast off the prejudices inherent in its existing policy and that it will be able to change the policy of making a friend, like Pakistan, the target of its unjust and improper treatment.

Resolution Passed To Protect Minority Worship Areas

BK0902143093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The National Assembly which transacted members' private business today unanimously adopted a resolution on the protection of places of worship of all minorities. Speaking on the resolution, the minister of state for minorities affairs, Mr. Peter John Sahotra, assured the house that the government is fully aware of its responsibilities and is committed to ensure protection to the minorities. He said the Constitution gives equal status to the minorities who are enjoying the same rights as the other citizens. The resolution was moved by Mr. Liaqat Baloch on behalf of Mr. Tariq C. Qaiser. The house also admitted five private bills moved by Mr. Wasim Ahmad and Rihan Omar Farooqi and referred them to the standing committee.